UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Supreme Court and Library Building

Multiple Name:

State & County: OREGON, Marion

Date Received:	Date of Pending List:	Date of 16th Day:	Date of 45th Day:	Date of Weekly List:
1/21/2020	2/10/2020	2/25/2020	3/6/2020	

Reference number: SG100005014

Nominator: Other Agency, SHPO

Reason For Review:

__ Appeal
__ SHPO Request
__ Waiver
__ Resubmission
X Other

__ PDIL
__ Landscape
__ National
__ Mobile Resource
__ TCP
__ CLG

__ Text/Data Issue
__ Photo
__ Map/Boundary
__ Period
__ Less than 50 years

X Accept ______ Return ______ Reject **3/4/2020** Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Supreme Court and Library Building is of statewide significance under National Register Criteria A and C in the area of Politics/Government and Architecture. Completed in 1914, the three-story, terracotta and granite clad building is an excellent example of early twentieth century Beaux Arts style civic design. The work of Oregon State Architect William C. Knighton, the steel and concrete frame building is prominently located on the Salem Capitol Mall and housed important government offices, including the Oregon Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Judicial Department, and the State Law Library; all pivotal elements of governmental operations during the period of significance. The oldest state government building in Salem, the building retains remarkable interior integrity.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criteria A and C

Reviewer Paul Lusignan

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229

Date 3/4/2020

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : **Yes**

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Control No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number ____ Page ____

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100005014

Date Listed: 03/04/2020

Property Name: Supreme Court and Library Building

County: Marion

State: OR

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation

Signature of the Keeper

3/4/2020
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Bibliographical References
The box for *Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register* was incorrectly checked and should be blank.

The OREGON SHPO was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 05/31/2020)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Date Listed 3-4-2020
NRIS No. SG100005014
Oregon SHPO

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Supreme Court and Library Building

other names/site number Oregon Supreme Court Building

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 1163 State Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Salem ☐ vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Marion code 047 zip code 97301

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ✓ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ **national** X **statewide** ___ **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A ___ B X C ___ D

Christine Curran 1·16·2020
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

☐ private
☐ public - Local
☒ public - State
☐ public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	**Total**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse
INDUSTRY: Communications Facility
EDUCATION: Library

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse
EDUCATION: Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

BEAUX ARTS

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: GRANITE
walls: TERRA COTTA
roof: RUBBER
other: N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraph

The Oregon Supreme Court Building was constructed in 1914 and designed in the Beaux Arts style by Oregon State Architect William C. Knighton.[1] Home to the Oregon Supreme Court, Oregon Court of Appeals, Oregon Judicial Department, and the Oregon State Law Library, this building is located in the southeast corner of the Salem Capitol Mall, adjacent to the State Capitol building and sharing a block with the Justice Building to the north. The building is surrounded by mature trees and greenspace, extending the park-like appearance of the Capitol Mall. It is a 57,650 square foot, three-story rectilinear building with basement and attic. It is constructed of steel and concrete, clad primarily in white terra cotta with a granite veneer foundation, and topped with a flat roof and parapet. Its Beaux Arts style is clearly expressed by classical detailing such as symmetrical elevations, engaged Ionic columns, a traditional entablature, segmental-arched windows, and a pedimented roof parapet with small arched battlements. The interior boasts original marble floors and wainscot, a bifurcated grand stair, ornate plaster ceilings, mahogany trim, and a stained-glass skylight at the third-floor courtroom designed by Portland's own Povey Brothers[2]. Spared from the devastating capitol fire of 1935, the Oregon Supreme Court Building is the oldest government building in Salem. Little has changed of the exterior and primary interior spaces since its construction. The exterior was restored in 2014 to repair deteriorating terra cotta units. Primary interior spaces retain their original finishes such as marble wainscoting and mahogany trim, and the building continues its original function as a courthouse and law library. The building retains high integrity and serves as an icon for the Judicial branch of government in Oregon and as a rare example of early 20th century architecture in the Salem Capitol Mall.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Oregon Supreme Court and Library Building sits at the center of Salem, Oregon's capital city. Bordered on the south by State Street and the historic campus of Willamette University (founded in 1843), on the west by the Oregon Capitol building (rebuilt in 1935), to the north by the Justice Building (1929), and on the east by two of Salem's oldest and most important transportation arteries (12th Street and the railroad), the building stands amongst state icons of the early 20th century and has represented the epicenter of Oregon law and order for over one hundred years.

The Oregon Supreme Court and Library Building was constructed upon a flat, rectilinear plot; slightly offset from center on the western edge of the block. Due north of the building is a narrow, paved parking area separating the Supreme Court from the Justice Building. This paved area was originally a park that extended an east/west axis from the original Capitol Building (no longer extant). The landscape to the east is bordered by western red cedars, and mature royal red maples wrap the south and west elevations. Directly surrounding the building perimeter at the north, east, and south elevations are fenced-in window wells, many disguised by hydrangeas. Two cypresses frame the south entrance. None of the above listed landscape features are believed to be historic, as early photographs depict a grassy landscape with rose bushes and few deciduous trees, no longer extant. Four camperdown elm trees flanking the entrance drives at either end of the parking area appear in early photographs and are believed to be original to the parking area construction date, ca. 1940. These trees are believed to be the oldest landscape features on site.

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[1] Ann M. Nicgorski, "Oregon Supreme Court Building, *The Oregon Encyclopedia*, March 17, 2018. https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/oregon_supreme_court_building/#.Xb-z-JpKiUk

[2] Bennett Hall, "Glass Masters", *Corvallis Gazette-Times,* May 26, 2013. Accessed July 12, 2019 https://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/glass-masters/article_20fcd130-547d-5d5a-a490-918312c993d6.html

General Exterior

Built in the Beaux Arts style, all exterior elevations are in a tripartite configuration. The longer north and south elevations are the primary elevations, composed of seven structural bays. The shorter east and west elevations are secondary, composed of five structural bays. At all elevations, the ground story is defined by a rusticated granite water table with terra cotta tile above - the terra cotta units shaped to mimic chamfered ashlar stone masonry with strong horizontal joints. A projecting terra cotta belt course wraps the building at the second floor window sill height, resembling a Greek temple stylobate and defining the transition to the second and third floors above. The second and third floors are visually combined, with smooth white terra cotta tile in a standard bond. Centered at each elevation on these floors is an engaged colonnade with two-story ionic order columns spanning from the terra cotta belt course to the entablature above. The elevations step back at the colonnade. Green terra cotta tiles infill between each column. Capping the building is an ornate entablature, a projecting dentilled cornice, and a parapet with pedimented corners. Continuing at regular intervals along the parapet are small arched battlements – signature details for architect William C. Knighton.

Round arched terra cotta entrances are centrally located at the primary elevations – the south serving the public and the north secured for staff. The entries are constructed of rectilinear mahogany-framed storefront units with double doors, sidelites, and transoms. Surrounding each are terra cotta detailing with engaged pilasters, decorative brackets, and terra cotta garland. A cantilevered metal-frame canopy protects each entrance, and the terra cotta infill of the arch above is green to match the panels between the colonnades above.

Windows throughout the building are constructed of mahogany-framed units painted brown at the exterior. First-floor units are arched, dual-assembly double-hung windows. Each window hood is accentuated by a segmental terra cotta keystone arch. The second floor has triple-assembly units with a combination of fixed and pivoting sashes. The assemblies within the colonnades include transoms above. Those without transoms are treated with decorative arched terra cotta hoods and detailed with brackets and shields (one is located at either end of each elevation). At the third floor, windows within the colonnade are triple assemblies with fixed and pivoting sash. These units have terra cotta garland hoods. Windows at either end of each elevation on this floor are dual assemblies with simple terra cotta trim and sills.

Additional character-defining features at the exterior include the words "Supreme Court of the State of Oregon" in Roman lettering relief at the terra cotta frieze at the north and south elevations. Above these words is an American Eagle and shield, a depiction of the Great Seal of the United States. In addition, glass globe lamp posts at either entrance are original, however those at the north entrance are missing. All other site lighting is non-original.

Interior

The Oregon Supreme Court Building is rectilinear in plan, symmetrical, and has three stories with an attic and full basement. The first floor includes the main entrance hall, lobby, and offices (Fig 5). The second floor is dedicated to the State Law Library and associated offices (Fig 6). The third floor hosts the building's namesake – the Supreme Courtroom. Also on the third floor are the justices' chambers and their staff offices (Fig 7). The unfinished attic is utilized as building storage (Fig 8), and the partially finished basement is occupied by the court's mailroom, storage, and mechanical (Fig 4).

Basement

The basement was historically utilized for mechanical and printing and library storage. Select interior partitions remain in their original location today, but the program in the basement has changed. The original library storage, located in the northeast corner of the basement, is now occupied by mechanical. The original library commission space in the southeast corner has been converted to the Oregon Judicial Department's mail room. Remaining spaces are utilized for storage and additional mechanical. Historically, two stairs led to the basement – one central stair and one stair from the north entrance vestibule. The vestibule stair no longer remains, but the central stair exists in its original location. Finishes throughout the basement have been altered over the years, with contemporary carpet, floor tile, and painted gypsum walls throughout.

First Floor Interior

The primary (south) entrance along State Street opens to a historic vestibule and entrance hall that leads to the lobby and grand marble staircase at the north end of the building. Opposite the south entrance is the staff (north) entrance vestibule. The public spaces in between are ornate, with Alaska white marble floors, *verde antico* marble baseboards, and Vermont striped *brocadillo* marble wainscot with green veining.[3] The walls are plaster, with coffered plaster ceilings at the vestibules and lobby, and a barrel-vaulted ceiling in the entrance hall. Engaged pilasters line the hall, and columns support the floor above in the lobby. A modern elevator is located at the west end of the main lobby and connects the basement through third floors. The grand stair at the north is bifurcated with quarter turns and wraps the north entrance on the first floor. It is detailed with decorative bronze balusters, mahogany handrails, and newell posts. This stair continues up to the third floor, with adjoining lobbies repeating on the second and third floors. Restrooms flank either side of the stair, with the women's to the west and men's to the east. Each restroom is treated with similar finishes, including original marble floors, bases, and wainscoting as well as marble toilet partitions with wood doors. Lighting in the primary vestibule, hall, and lobby includes acorn-style pendants and circular surface mounted units.

Flanking these public spaces on the first floor are two office suites: the Central Staff offices to the west and Court of Appeals Records to the east. The Central Staff office suite was originally an open-plan printing press but has been subdivided over the years for private offices, beginning as early as 1939.[4] The Records suite originally housed the state library collection and offices. This space was reconfigured following the construction of a separate Oregon State Library building in 1939 and is now dedicated to private and shared offices. Within this suite is the original private elevator, which connects the first through third floors and still hosts an original gate. Interior finishes throughout both office suites include modern carpeting, painted gypsum and plaster walls, and a dropped ACT ceiling with integrated fluorescent troffers. Interior partitions at the Records suite comporise a modular prefabricated wall system, not original.

Second Floor Interior

Continuing up the grand staircase to the second floor, one is greeted by the State Law Library lobby. The lobby repeats those finishes of the first floor, except that the columns and engaged pilasters are accentuated with plaster eagle capitals. There is only one restroom at this floor – a men's room to the east of the stair - finished in original marble and plaster. Back in the lobby, a set of large, full-lite, wood double doors with an arched transom above lead into the State Law Library at the southern half of the building.

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[3] Nicgorski, "Oregon Supreme Court Building, *The Oregon Encyclopedia*, March 17, 2018. https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/oregon_supreme_court_building/#.Xb-z-JpKiUk

[4] Whitehouse & Church Architects, *First Floor Plan Alterations to Supreme Court Bldg. Salem, OR*, Architectural Drawing, June 9, 1939.

The library itself is a grand, full-height, symmetrical space with floor-to-ceiling windows lining the south elevation and original painted steel mezzanines to the east and west. The central collections space is open in plan, interrupted only by Ionic columns at regular intervals. The mezzanines are supported by integrated shelving and include decorative railings and stairs at their north ends. The underside of the mezzanine floor is inlaid marble with tulip pendant lighting. Finishes throughout include a contemporary broadloom carpeted floor with original inlaid marble perimeter, original marble base, and painted plaster walls. The structural grid is accentuated by ornate plaster corbels along the north and south elevations. The coffered plaster ceiling at the open collections area is trimmed with a Greek key pattern and rosettes. Coffered ceilings above the mezzanines are simpler in design, void of ornament. Pendant lights, centered at each coffer in the collections area, are modern fixtures replaced ca. 2014.

Flanking the library entrance is the librarian's office and conference room to the east and two additional staff offices to the west. These offices retain their original wood trim, including picture rails, baseboards, and window trim. Floors are carpeted, replaced over the years, and plaster walls and ceiling are painted. However, the librarian's office has been modified with a dropped ACT ceiling and integrated troffer lighting. The northeast justices' conference room and northwest office each have a coved, coffered ceiling. The Justices' conference includes decorative plaster brackets in each corner. The northwest office includes an original vault with mezzanine - used today as a rare books storage room.

Third Floor Interior:

The third-floor lobby is similar to the second floor, except that the column capitals are replaced with Ionic order detailing. From the lobby one can enter the central courtroom via wood double doors to the south or the network of justices' chambers and associated staff offices wrapping the east, south, and west perimeter (connected by a private "U" shaped corridor). Public restrooms on this floor are located to the east of the stair and include one gender-neutral room and one men's room.

The most distinguishing interior space on the third floor is the large Supreme Courtroom. The wood doors leading into this room are topped with a stained-glass transom which reads "SUPREME COURT." The courtroom itself is square in plan, with a raised mahogany justice's bench at the southern portion of the room. There is a tradition that each signs the inside of their desk drawer when they leave, and there are many historic signatures inside the drawers that are still visible today. The chief justice's drawer chronicles the names of the court members and staff who first occupied the building. Another drawer depicts "The custom of wearing robes was first begun by this court on this day, Monday, March 2, 1914."[5]

The curved corners of the courtroom are accented by pairs of mahogany pilasters at either side. The floor is finished with a custom wool broadloom carpet; the walls with an original black marble base, mahogany wainscot, and Italian silk wallcovering; and the ceiling is a decorative coved plaster ceiling. The carpet and wall covering were updated in the 1980s. Most notably within this space is the domed stained-glass skylight, the work of the famous Povey Brothers of Portland, Oregon. Known for their stained-glass windows that rivaled Tiffany & Co at the time, the Povey Brothers operated from 1888-1930.[6] The design of this skylight includes orbital details and features the Oregon State Seal at the center. This feature is one of the few remaining Povey Brother skylights still extant in its original location.

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[5] *Supreme Court Tours Handbook*, August 1979, p. H-1.

[6] Karla Pearlstein, "Povey Brothers Studio: The Art of Stained Glass", *Preservation Artisans Guild*, October 12, 2016.

Others that remain are located in Portland at Wilhelm's Portland Memorial Mausoleum and Huber's, a historic restaurant.

Wrapping the courtroom are the justices' chambers, accessed by secured doors at the east and west ends of the third-floor lobby. The private corridor is detailed with marble flooring and an inset carpet runner, marble base, mahogany picture rails, and vaulted plaster ceiling. Three frosted glass skylights provide natural light into this corridor from the attic space above. Marble steps and a private door at the southern half of the corridor lead to the justices' bench of the courtroom. The surrounding offices are carpeted with mahogany wainscoting. The four corner justices' offices are the most ornate and include decorative coffered plaster ceilings with brackets.

Attic:

Access to the attic is via two secured staircases – one at either end of the private third-floor corridor. The attic is open in plan, with the domed skylight of the courtroom occupying the center of the room. Above this skylight is another gabled clear glass skylight, allowing natural light to diffuse into the attic and third floor below, while protecting the attic from the elements. Surrounding the skylight is storage space. The attic is unfinished, with an exposed concrete structure painted grey and exposed hollow clay-tile wrapped columns.

Exterior Alterations:

Minor alterations have affected the Oregon Supreme Court Building exterior. These begin with the addition of a parking area to the north of the building in 1940. Canvas window awnings appear in historic photos predating the parking area (1940) but are no longer extent - their exact period of use is unknown. Records were discovered from 1951 detailing exterior terra cotta restoration work, with specifications to replace existing terra cotta units in-kind. In 1956, a fire escape was added to the south end of the west elevation to meet building code and remains today. The fire escape is painted white to match the surrounding terra cotta.More recently in 2016, the exterior terra cotta was restored, with damaged units replaced in-kind and anchored for seismic reinforcement. In 2017, the south public entrance was made accessible with the installation of granite paved ramps to match the original granite landing, which still remains. In addition, two flagpoles were installed on site at the south elevation, replacing the function of the original single flagpole mounted above the terra cotta eagle at the south parapet. This rooftop flagpole remains, unused. Other exterior alterations include changes in landscaping, including planting of both deciduous and evergreen trees and a variety of shrubs and bushes. The dates of these changes are unknown.

Interior Alterations:

Interior alterations began as early as 1934, with acoustic treatments added to the plaster walls of the third-floor courtroom.[7] Following construction of the Oregon State Library in 1939, the first-floor library collection was relocated to the new building. Around the same time, the state's printing press at the western half of the first floor relocated (exact date unknown). Drawings dating from 1939 show interior alteration of the remaining spaces involving subdivision of the open spaces to private offices.[8]

Restrooms on the first through third floors have also been altered over the years. Originally, the first-floor west restroom was a public men's restroom. It is now a public women's restroom. The first-floor east restroom, today a single occupant men's restroom, was historically a public women's restroom. On the second floor, the men's restroom has been converted to a single occupant gender-neutral restroom. On the third floor, the former Janitor's room was converted to a gender-neutral restroom. The public men's restroom and the private women's restroom have remained in their original locations. An additional private men's restroom was added near the northeast corner of the building. The dates of these restroom alterations are unknown.

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[7] Frederick A. & Kenneth C. Leggl Architects, *Acoustical Treatment: Oregon State Supreme Court*, Architectural Drawing, July 13, 1934.

[8] Whitehouse & Church Architects, *First Floor Plan Alterations to Supreme Court Building*, Architectural Drawing, June 9, 1939.

In 1976, the library finishes were updated with new carpeting and paint.[9] The interior of the courtroom was renovated in the 1980s when a leak in the skylight spurred a larger restoration of the interior. The skylight was structurally reinforced. New carpet and Italian silk wall coverings were installed in the courtroom in a monochromatic color scheme to echo the pale-yellow colors of the skylight. As one of the only state buildings that is not owned and maintained by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, this redesign was funded by private donations and directed by the justices at the time.[10] Along with the interior redesign, a climate control system was installed, and more electrical outlets were added to support the introduction of computers.[11] More recently in 2002, the library was rehabilitated with new carpeting, paint, lighting, and wider bookshelves.[12]

Integrity:

The Oregon Supreme Court Building retains high integrity at both the interior and exterior. All alterations and repairs have placed great emphasis on maintaining the historic features of the building in primary spaces. The 2016 exterior restoration employed custom-made terra cotta units to match the original, blending seamlessly with the building. In addition, all original window units were restored and remain operable. At the interior, primary public spaces including the lobbies, grand stair, law library, courtroom, and justices' offices retain high integrity as they maintain their original configuration, design details, finishes, and continued association with the Oregon Supreme Court. In primary public corridors and lobbies, original character-defining features are wholly extent and include marble floors, marble wainscot, mahogany trim, decorative plaster walls and ceilings, and original light fixtures. Spaces such as the basement and first floor offices are the exception, as they have been heavily altered over the years with modern materials and no longer retain their historic integrity. These are secondary spaces and not visible to the public. Despite the changes within the first-floor office suites and basement, the building's character-defining features are largely extent in all primary interior spaces and at the exterior.

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[9] *Supreme Court Tours Handbook.*

[10] The Oregon Supreme Court Building is owned by the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). The OJD was established in 1981 to unify all state courts in Oregon. The building is maintained by the Oregon Department of Administration Services, the state's property management agency.

[11] Melody Finnemore, "Oregon Legal Heritage," *Oregon State Bar,* August/September 2005. https://www.osbar.org/publications/bulletin/05augsep/heritage.html

[12] Ibid

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
LAW
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1914 – 1969

Significant Dates

1914 – Date of construction
1969 – Creation of the Court of Appeals

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Knighton, William Christmas, Architect
Erixon, F.A., Builder

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1914, when the building was constructed to house the Oregon Supreme Court. The period ends with the creation of the Court of Appeals in 1969, which significantly changed the composition and work of the Oregon Supreme Court and jointly occupied the Oregon Supreme Court Building.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Oregon Supreme Court and Library Building is eligible for the National Register at the state level under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government, the building reflects the Supreme Court's impact on the development of Oregon's provisional government, statehood, and establishment of its capital. It was the first building constructed solely for state Supreme Court matters in Oregon, is the oldest government building to survive in the state's capitol mall in Salem, and still serves as a beacon for Oregon's government. Under the area of Law, the building physically embodies the culmination of an official legal presence in Oregon and continues to house the Oregon Supreme Court today. Under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, the Oregon Supreme Court Building is a premier example of Oregon State Architect William Christmas Knighton's body of work. The building is the architect's best example of the Beaux Arts style and is the first documented use of terra cotta in the state outside of Portland.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE – GOVERNMENT & LAW

Establishing Law in Oregon Country

The history of the judicial system in Oregon began in 1841, before Oregon reached statehood. Leading up to that year, competition for who would be governing Oregon Country (roughly present-day Washington, Oregon, and Idaho) was between the United States, Britain, and indigenous peoples. The indigenous natives who long inhabited the region were becoming outnumbered by Anglo-American and British exploration parties. At the time, Britain oversaw the Hudson Bay Company (HBC), an organization of fur trappers competing for settlement in the Pacific Northwest. HBC had a monopoly on traded goods in the area and select members of the HBC were instructed by British Parliament to enforce Britain's rule in North America.[13] In response, American settlers attempted to gain control of the region by introducing a new commodity not offered by the HBC: cattle ranching. This proved successful, particularly by the effort of Ewing Young, an elected leader of a cattle expedition who drove some 600 head of cattle from California to the Willamette Valley. This paved the way for not only the lucrative business of Oregon ranching, but also the first judicial ruling in Oregon Country.

Ewing Young died in 1841, leaving behind his immense cattle fortune and no heirs. To keep the peace, the provisional government in Willamette Valley elected Dr. Ira L. Babcock of the Methodist Mission "to fill the office of supreme judge with probate powers" and to act according to the laws of New York.[14] Thus, Young's estate was auctioned off to American settlers and some of the proceeds went to build a new jail in Oregon City. That 1841 probate case was the first independently held official judicial case in the Oregon Country. The case set a precedent for an urgent need of law and order in Oregon Country.

Although a step toward United States governance, the Oregon Country still remained under joint jurisdiction between the United States, Britain, and indigenous peoples who were resisting colonization. Further moves were made to organize American colonies in the region, including the "Champoeg Meetings" beginning in 1843. These meetings, commonly cited as the beginning of official government in the Oregon Country, involved 12 appointed officials to "consider measures for the civil and military protection of this colony." One of these meetings resulted in the 1843 Organic Law. This law provided for an executive committee of three, a legislative committee of nine, a judiciary, a military, and provisions regarding land claims.[15]

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[13] Joe K. Stephens, "Chapter 39: Oregon Law Before Statehood: History and Sources," 961-962, in Michael Chiorazzi and Marguerite Most, eds., Pre-statehood Legal Materials: A Fifty-State Research Guide, Including New York City and the District of Columbia, Volume 2 (New York: The Haworth Information Press, 2005), 958-959.

[14] Joseph Henry Brown, *Brown's Political History of Oregon: Provisional Government*, vol. I (Portland: Wiley B. Allen, 1892), p. 83, accessed October 9, 2018

Soon after, Americans began flooding the Willamette Valley via the increasingly popular Oregon Trail, boosting American settlers in the region, displacing the natives, and placing pressure on the United States to formally establish control. Finally, the question of British or American jurisdiction over Oregon was settled with the 1846 Oregon Treaty with Great Britain. This treaty established the boundaries of a new Oregon Territory and brought it fully under American oversight in 1848. The competition over land and the need to establish law and order in the Oregon Country was settled with the United States. By 1859, Oregon was accepted into the Union as the 33rd state. Under the purview of Oregon's first governor, Joseph Lane, appointed by President Polk, Oregon was folded into the American embrace.[16]

Oregon's Judiciary Branch and Establishment of the State Capital

The Organic Law of 1843 standardized the judicial presence in Oregon, providing a Supreme Court, probate court, and justices of the peace. By 1846, an act of Congress mandated that the Oregon Territory provide three Supreme Court justices. This Supreme Court met annually at the seat of government, which fluctuated between Oregon City, Salem, and Corvallis throughout the late 1840s and into the 1850s. It was not until 1851 that the legislature established the capital as Salem due to a federal mandate restricting the location of the capital to its site at the time of territory status. There the Territorial Capitol Building, started in 1853 but not finished until 1855, became the seat of all government and a meeting place for the Supreme Court. Originally intended to be a masonry structure, it was completed as wood-frame and designed in the Greek Revival style, starting a "classical tradition for Oregon statehouses" in Salem.[17] Unfortunately, one month after completion, the Territorial Building was lost to fire.

In 1857 the Constitution modified the Supreme Courts' structure by establishing four districts. Each district would elect one state justice.[18] These justices also served in the circuit court for their district. Thus, when the Supreme Court met each year, one justice would be exempt from each proceeding as he had already heard the case as a district judge, leaving the remaining three to make the decision. The first four Supreme Court justices were Aaron E. Wait, Chief Justice, and Reuben P. Boise, Riley E. Stratton, and Paine P. Prim.[19] For the next twenty years, the Oregon Supreme Court, along with the State Legislature, met in several downtown Salem buildings including the Nesmith-Wilson Building at Front and Trade Streets (1855-1859) and the Holman Building at Commercial and Trade Streets (1859-1876). Neither building remains standing.[20] A permanent capitol building was essential.

In 1865, Oregon voters finally confirmed Salem as the state capital,[21] and by 1872 the legislature had authorized expenditures for construction of a "permanent and durable statehouse."[22] It was designed in the Italian Renaissance style by Portland firm Krumbien and Gilbert. Opening in 1876 in the same location as the lost Territorial Building, the three-story brick and sandstone structure was cruciform in plan, replete with Corinthian columns (added in 1888), two-story portico columns, a Classical entablature, and arched third-story windows and doors.[23] The building housed all branches of state government, but the Oregon Supreme Court kept a large presence occupying a spacious chamber (approximately 2500 square feet) on the third floor of this building.

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[15] Joe K. Stephens, *Oregon Courts Under the Provisional Government*, https://soll.libguides.com/c.php?g=518792&p=3547787

[16] Oregon Bill of 1848, *An Act to Establish the Territorial Government of Oregon*, ch 177, 9 Stat. 323 (1848).

[17] Paul Porter and Susan Gibby, "Oregon State Capitol and the Capitol Mall", Salem Online History, accessed January 5, 2019. <www.salemhistory.net/places/state_capitol.htm>

[18] Oregon Constitution, Art. VII (Original), §§ 2, 8.

[19] Stephen P. Armitage,"History of the Oregon Judicial Department, Part 2: After Statehood," State of Oregon Law Library, Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) History, accessed March 3, 2017, http://www.oregon.gov/SOLL/PublishingImages/OregonJudicialDepartmentHistoryPt2_04_2009.pdf.

[20] Porter and Gibby, "Oregon State Capitol and the Capitol Mall"

[21] Elisabeth Potter, *Oregon State Capitol Building of 1876*, Portland State University: 2009.

[22] Salem Directory, 1874.

[23] Potter, *Oregon State Capitol Fire Building of 1876*, 2009.

Expansion of the Oregon Supreme Court

Following construction of the 1876 Capitol Building in Salem, there was a series of shifts in the courts. The legislature decided to split the Supreme Court and circuit courts into different classes in 1878. Thus, Supreme Court justices were reduced to three and the circuit court was authorized to hear more cases. The split also meant that Supreme Court justices were no longer elected by the districts, but by the Oregon people as a whole.[24] By the early 1900s, even with the split of duties, the three justices struggled to keep up with the increasingly heavy workload. In 1907, the Legislature created the Office of the Commissioner to the Supreme Court: two Commissioners were appointed to help manage the caseload.

Even this additional manpower proved inadequate to keep up with the ever-increasing number of cases, so in 1909, the number of justices was increased to five. The constitutionality of such a decision, however, was unclear.[25] The 1878 provision that allowed for the separation of circuit court and supreme court judges, specifically referenced *three* Supreme Court justices.[26] The issue became important in the case of *State v. Cochran* (1909) when the Supreme Court reversed the defendant's conviction of selling liquor. The state objected to this reversal on the ground that increasing the number of justices was unconstitutional and the two new justices' opinions should therefore be tossed out. The vote would have been 2-1 in favor of the state instead of the 3-2 decision in favor of Cochran. The Supreme Court decided that increasing the number of justices was constitutional, referencing the original section of the constitution that specifically mentioned the ability to increase the number of justices up to seven based on population. The decision in favor of Cochran stood, and the total number of justices increased.[27]

In 1910, voters approved another amendment aimed at simplifying the court system. Led by The People's Power League and its poised leader, William S. U'Ren, the legislature amended key aspects of the Supreme Court and judicial review.[28] It allowed flexibility in creating more court levels, gave the Supreme Court the ability to hear previously restricted kinds of cases (mandamus, habeas corpus, and quo warranto), addressed judicial review on facts decided by a jury, and authorized civil cases to be decided by a three-fourths majority (it had previously required a unanimous decision). U'Ren is known as one of the architects of the "Oregon System" of government, which relied on popular vote as opposed to legislative appointment.[29] In fact, he was so influential in Oregon politics that a 1906 editorial described the branches of government as the "executive, judicial, legislative and Mr. U'Ren." [30] It was due much to his support of the amendment that it passed.

In 1913, the legislature again expanded the Supreme Court to its maximum of seven justices, as well as created the district court system, an authority that had been given to them by the 1910 amendment. The expansion also allowed the court the flexibility to meet in "departments" of three justices each. These legislative moves established the structure of the Supreme Court that is still utilized today.[31] What started as a simple case over the estate of a lone cattle rancher developed into establishment of the state of Oregon, location of its capitol mall, and creation of a judicial department and Supreme Court - setting the framework for how the Oregon Judicial Department continues to operate.

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[24] The first districts consisted of Jackson, Josephine, and Douglas Counties; the second district, of Umpqua, Coos, Curry, Lane, and Benton Counties; the third district, of Linn, Marion, Polk, Yamhill, and Washington Counties; and the fourth district, of Clackamas, Multnomah, Wasco, Columbia, Clatsop, and Tillamook Counties. See Or. Const., Art. XVIII, § 11. The fifth district was made up of Wasco, Umatilla, and Baker counties. See Armitage, "History of the Oregon Judicial Department," p. 2-3.

[25] Armitage, "History of the Oregon Judicial Department," p. 3-4.

[26] *Oregon Constitution*, Article VII, section 10.

[27] Armitage, "History of the Oregon Judicial Department," p. 4.

[28] Oregon Constitution, Article VII.

[29] "William U'Ren Biography 1859-1949," The Oregon History Project, March 17, 2018, accessed October 9, 2018, https://oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/biographies/william-u39ren-biography/.

[30] "Now Mr. U'Ren proposes…," *Morning Oregonian*, July 17, 1906, p. 8 as quoted in Armitage, "History of the Oregon Judicial Department," p. 5.

[31] Armitage, "History of the Oregon Judicial Department," 10-12; and George Hoffman, "Political Arithmetic: Charles L. McNary and the 1914 Primary Election," Oregon Historical Quarterly 66, vol. 4 (Dec. 1965): 363-378.

Construction of the Supreme Court Building: 1914

The evolution of the Oregon Supreme Court and its elevated role in the early 1900s culminated with the construction of a dedicated Supreme Court Building in 1914. With so much growth in the judicial department, additional room was needed outside of the physical space allocated within the 1876 Capitol building. Initially in 1911, Senator John A. Carson introduced a bill that proposed adding a new wing to the building for the Supreme Court.[32] The legislature instead adopted a plan for an entirely new building to help alleviate the congestion in the current State House, which at that time housed all the branches of government. The new building would house the Oregon Supreme Court, Attorney General, and State Law Library.[33]

The siting of the Oregon Supreme Court Building was on the southwest corner block of Salem's Waldo Addition, on land owned by Governor Oswald West and his wife Mabel. In July 1911, Governor West sold the residential property to the state. Earlier that year, the State Board of Control considered $10,000 a reasonable price for West's property. Governor West suggested the price was excessive and consented to no more than $8,500 for the property, reasoning that the amount would cover the property's cost along with taxes and street improvements.[34] Senate Bill 255 authorized the Board of Public Building Commissioners to purchase this additional land within three blocks of the capitol grounds to erect the Supreme Court Building.[35] Several homes occupied the lots that composed the property, and the removal of the site's existing buildings appears to foreshadow the state's eminent domain policies that were implemented in the Capitol Mall expansion and reconstruction that followed in the 1930s.[36]

In 1912, Governor Oswald West had appointed Indiana native William Christmas Knighton as State Architect, and his services were utilized in the design of the Supreme Court building. Designed in the Beaux Arts style, it was intended to compliment the Italian Renaissance style of the adjacent 1876 Capitol Building, contributing to the trend of classical architecture on the capitol mall. In adherence to the Planning Board's desire for a strong fire-resistant structure, the design proposed steel framing encased in reinforced concrete and an exterior clad in a cream-colored, glazed architectural terra cotta. The planning advanced quickly and in May 1913, the state received its building permit at a cost of $10,332.[37] The Board of Control opened bids for construction, with work scheduled to begin in July 1913.[38]

The Oregon Legislature had initially approved $188,000 for the interior but reduced that number to $170,000. Knighton was forced to revise some of his plans but he confirmed the building should still be ready for occupancy by January 1, 1914.[39] The total construction cost was approximately $250,000.[40] The completed building was originally named the Supreme Court and Library Building.[41] The state printing press occupied the west side of the first floor and general state library occupied the east. The State Law Library occupied the second floor, as it still does today, and at its start held over 16,000 books. The third floor, with its Povey Brothers skylight, houses the courtroom and justices' chambers.[42] The state's highest court took the bench on February 14, 1914 (Oregon's 55th birthday), and the building was officially dedicated on February 27, 1914.

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[32] *Oregon Senate Bill 255* (1911).

[33] "Salem's Residence Section Has Great Growth," *Daily Capital Journal*, December 20, 1913, p. 23.

[34] "West Cuts Price on His Own Land," *Daily Capital Journal*, March 19, 1911, p.2

[35] *General Laws of Oregon*, 1913, Senate Bill 255, Chapter 112, p. 155.

[36] Copy of the deed indicates the State of Oregon paid multiple grantors a combined sum of $13,000

[37] "Building Permits of Five Weeks," *Daily Capital Journal*, May 07, 1912, p. 3.

[38] "Bid For Remodeling Statehouse About Due," *Daily Capital Journal*, February 9, 1912, p.6.

[39] "Work to be Completed," *Morning Oregonian*, June 20, 1913, p 7.

[40] "New Salem Structure One of State's Best," *Statesman Journal*, January 1, 1914, p.10.

[41] Elizabeth Belshaw, "State Supreme Court Building," *State of Oregon Inventory of Historic Properties*, 1979.

[42] "New Supreme Court Building Dedicated in Appropriate Way," *Daily Capital Journal*, February 27, 1914, p. 1.

Governor West and Chief Justice McBride both gave addresses at the ceremony. The building was touted for its construction of "absolute fireproof" materials, an ominous foreshadowing of the fate of the nearby Capitol Building.[43]

Subsequent Years – A Beacon for Oregon Government

The Oregon Supreme Court Building became part of the Salem landscape and a locally recognized landmark as soon as it was constructed. During construction, the *Statesman Journal* touted in January 1914 that the Supreme Court building is to be "one of the most beautiful of all the state buildings located here or elsewhere." In March 1914, a *Daily Capital Journal* piece entitled "Salem Will Do Much" lauded the building as one of Salem's best improvements: "the new Supreme Court building is a magnificent structure. Modern in every detail and in an ideal location, the state not only made a good investment but Salem did a good turn by placing it in the civic center line."[44] Local press regarded the civic center addition as "imposing" and as the area's greatest improvement, making five blocks of land covered solely by state, county, and federal buildings. It was considered modern in every detail with serviceability to last one hundred years. In addition, the building garnered recognition beyond Oregon's borders. In 1915, the governing body of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition presented a bronze placard to the State of Oregon to commemorate the dedication of the building. In addition, Knighton garnered fame and led an Oregon delegation to the San Francisco Exposition in 1913 and spoke to the press on behalf of Governor West.

Thereafter, newspapers noted otherwise inconsequential details about the building, which evidenced its importance to the community as more than just a courthouse. Such details include the installation of linoleum in November of 1914 at the printing press, a relatively modern marvel installed at a cost of $500.[45] In November 1917 a pipe burst, causing "the Attorney General's office for once [to go] unanimously wet" (this was during Oregon's prohibition years).[46] The Supreme Court building is often listed as a locational reference for houses that were for sale or rent at the time: "3 ½ blocks from Supreme Court building," or "5 blocks from the Supreme Court building."[47] The building was a locational node by which people oriented themselves against a growing urban landscape.

In 1935, the Oregon Supreme Court Building's significance in the community was reinforced. That year, a devastating fire destroyed the adjacent 1876 Capitol building. This elevated the status of the Supreme Court building as the oldest building in the Salem Capitol Mall and the only structure remaining from the court's early years. The tragic event also reaffirmed the 1911 decision to construct not a wing on the Capitol Building but a dedicated structure for the Supreme Court using fire-resistant materials.

Changing Courts: 1914 and Beyond

After the Oregon Supreme Court Building was constructed, the courts went through several other compositional changes. In 1929, "at large" elections of justices ended and in 1931 judicial elections were made nonpartisan. In 1930, a third building at the capitol was constructed for state offices. Today referred to as the Justice Building, it was also designed by Knighton and his partner, Leslie Dillon Howell, with whom he started a private practice following his years as State Architect. In 1961 another new court was created, The Oregon Tax Court, which would subsume jurisdiction over all tax law issues brought to court in Oregon. In 1969, in response to another large backlog of cases, the Oregon Court of Appeals was created by an act in the legislature. This decreased the workload of the Supreme Court by forty-five percent and allowed the backlog to ease. This marks one of the biggest changes in composition of the Supreme Court system in Oregon since it was created back in 1841, and serves as a termination point for the Supreme Court building's period of significance.[48] As of 2019, the Court of Appeals continues to operate within both the Supreme Court Building (utilizing the courtroom and records offices) and adjacent Justice Building (offices).

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[43] "Salem will do much," *Daily Capital Journal*, March 7, 1914, p. 5.

[44] "Salem will do much," *Daily Capital Journal*, March 7, 1914, p. 5.

[45] "Linoleum sufficient to cover the entire courthouse," *Daily Capital Journal*, November 27, 1914, p. 8.

[46] "Burst Pipe," *Daily Capital Journal*, November 27, 1917, p. 5.

[47] "For Sale," *Daily Capital Journal*, April 24, 1920, p. 9; and "For Sale," *Daily Capital Journal*, January 28, 1922, p. 9.

Summary

The Oregon Supreme Court Building physically represents the judicial branch of government in Oregon and its role in establishing statehood. The growth of the court system at the turn of the nineteenth century necessitated physical expansion of the Capitol, emblematic of the judicial department's increased importance in the state. The decision to construct a dedicated court building in 1914 proved wise given the fate of the Capitol in 1935 – a move that preserved the presence of early Classical architecture on the Capitol mall. Defying pressure in the 1980s to build a new justice building that would relocate both the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals away from the Library,[49] the Oregon Supreme Court Building remains in its original location, still houses the Supreme Court and all seven justices, and is lauded as one of Salem's finest civic buildings on the Capitol Mall to this day.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE – ARCHITECTURE

William Christmas Knighton: Oregon State Architect

William Christmas Knighton was born on Christmas Day 1864 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He received early architectural training in the south, studying in Birmingham, Alabama in the 1880s, and later in Chicago.[50] He came to Oregon in 1893 to study under architect C. C. McNally, who was designing the Frank-Furness inspired Capitol National Bank Building. Today this building is a contributing structure to the Salem Downtown Historic District. Following his apprenticeship with McNally, Knighton quickly built his reputation as a talented architect with the completion of several important commissions, including the Dr. L. A. Port residence in Salem (1894) and several Queen Anne and Arts & Crafts-style residences in Portland.

Knighton spent a few years between Los Angeles and Birmingham before he took up permanent residence in Portland in 1902.[51] In the following decade, the city of Portland experienced an increase in "building operations" of 83%, making it second only to Detroit in production.[52] During this period many three- and four-story commercial structures were built. These typically housed commercial and sales at the street level, with upper floors for lodging or offices. Knighton contributed greatly to this boom in construction, exercising his knowledge in Chicago-style architecture while experimenting with terra cotta ornament that crossed between Viennese Secessionist and Sullivanesque detailing. His most notable contributions during this time were the Seward Hotel (1909, today the Sentinel Hotel) and the Whitney and Gray Building (1910, today recognized as Jake's Famous Crawfish). Both are individually listed in the National Register, with the Sentinel recognized as a National Historic Landmark.

Knighton's growing reputation was recognized by Governor Oswald West, who was witnessing an increased demand for construction at the state level. As the state's population continued to grow (Salem's population tripled from 1900 to 1920), so did the need for facilities such as hospitals, prisons, schools, administrative offices, and other public buildings.[53] The *Journal* observed a "rapidly transformed" capital city in Salem, and declared "more public improvements are being made than ever before in the history of the city."[54] The substantial number of large-scale state projects commanded firm knowledge and application of modern technology and engineering, including adoption of current building and fire codes. As a result, Board of Control Chairman Governor Oswald West appointed Knighton as Oregon's first (and only) State Architect from 1911-1917. During Knighton's tenure, he oversaw the building or remodeling of over 90 buildings around the state - primarily armories, schools, and office buildings.[55] He restrained himself to Classic Revival styles during this time. These include the Oregon Supreme Court Building, the Administration Building at the University of Oregon (Johnson Hall), Grant High School in Portland, and the State Hospital in Pendleton.[56]

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[48] Armitage, "History of the Oregon Judicial Department," 12-15.

[49] Finnemore, Melody, "Oregon Legal Heritage," 2005.

[50] Portland Public Schools, "Grant High School", *Oregon Historic Site Form*, 2009, https://oregondigital.org/catalog/oregondigital:df67rn61b#page/1/mode/1up

[51] Robert E. Clay, *William C. Knighton, AIA (1867-1938): Chronology of Life, Career and Inventory of Major Works,* unpublished monogram in author's possession. (1990, revised 2011), p. 3.

[52] National Register of Historic Places, *Whitney and Gray Building*, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, NR# 83002177

[53] "Great Building Year for Salem in 1913," *Daily Capital Journal*, December 20, 1913, p.23.

[54] "Business Buildings Proposed," *Daily Capital Journal*, June 18, 1913, p.8.

Knighton's position as Oregon State Architect proved controversial in spite of his qualifications. A number of architects, legislators, and political leaders opposed the position, voicing concerns that the office would effectively create a monopoly and shut out private firms from the bidding process. Furthermore, an argument ensued over whether the position of state architect was truly cost-effective.[57] Knighton is reported to have been the fifth-highest paid state official at the time, equal to that of the Secretary of State. However, the Board of Control figures confirmed an annual cost savings of approximately $10,000-$15,000 in architect fees.[58] Knighton's transition back to the private sector, and the demise of the State Architect position following his tenure, is not documented.

From 1924-1938, Knighton returned to the private sector in Portland, collaborating with architect Leslie Dillon Howell. Howell was born in 1884 in Winfield, Kansas. He studied architecture at the University of Illinois before relocating to Portland in 1910, where he practiced for the next 35 years. Together their work evolved from Classical to Modern. Their notable buildings include Grant High School in Portland (1923), the Frigidaire Building in Portland (1928), and returning to Salem with the Justice Building (1930) – which shares the block to the north of the Supreme Court building. Knighton and Howell continued to practice together until Knighton's death in 1938.[59] Howell continued to practice along until his death in 1969.

Outside of Knighton's career, he and his wife were active in the community. Although Knighton's impressive resume had well qualified him for the role of State Architect, political connections through his marriage to Elinor "Lella" Waters likely aided his candidacy for the position. The Waters were among Salem's most prominent and influential families, as evidenced through their publishing of the *Capitol Journal* newspaper, business interests, real estate ventures, and political connections.[60] It was during the early years of their marriage when Knighton acquainted himself with a number of social clubs and professional associations.[61] Knighton himself was a member of many organizations, including the Portland Architectural Club (1910-1913), the Oregon Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (joined 1913, secretary 1917, president 1920, director 1921-1923), and the first president of the Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners (1919-1923).[62] Together, Knighton and his wife were frequently cited in the society pages of the *Oregon Statesman* through the early twentieth century.

Knighton's Stylistic Evolution

William C. Knighton practiced architecture for nearly 45 years during a time of great change in both Portland and the state of Oregon. While he is currently most recognized by architectural scholars for his experimentation with Chicago-style buildings and their ornament in downtown Portland, his style remained fluid with the times. Cultural and economic shifts following the turn of the century are represented in Knighton's work, including the boom in Oregon's population, the growth of government agencies, and an increase in commercialization. Knighton's early residential architecture is emblematic of the Arts & Crafts style, popular throughout the Pacific Northwest in the early 1900s. He then committed to classical proportions and their associated formulas of base/shaft/capital in his early commercial work, which was then extended into state projects.[63] Following this, and during his partnership with Howell, he contributed greatly to the commercial fabric of Portland, embracing more modern approaches to design.

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[55] Robert E. Clay, *William Christmas Knighton, Architect (1867-1938): Oregon's State Architect*, Paper, updated October 2012.
[56] National Register of Historic Places, *Dr. Luke A. Port House*, Salem, Marion County, Oregon, NR# 73001581
[57] *Oregon Blue Book,* 1913-1914.
[58] "Knighton Appointed State Architect," *Medford Mail Tribune*, March 19, 1911, p.2.
[59] Peter Meijer, "Oregon State Office Building", *Oregon SHPO Clearance Form*, October 22, 2012.
[60] Clay, "William Christmas Knighton, Architect (1867-1938): Oregon's State Architect," 2012.
[61] Ibid.
[62] Richard E. Ritz, *Architects of Oregon: A Biographical Dictionary of Architects Deceased - 19th and 20th Centuries* (Portland: Lair Hill Publishing, 2003), p. 230.

Queen Anne and the Dr. Luke Port House (1894)

The Dr. Luke Port House is located in Salem within blocks of the capital grounds. Designed in 1894 shortly after Knighton arrived in Oregon, the Dr. Luke Port House was Knighton's first notable project. The design of the house is distinctively Queen Anne, with its varied roof pattern, bell-cast roof tower, recessed porches, and Eastlake detailing. Queen Anne was popular in America between 1880-1900. It was adapted in Oregon in the late 19th century with the boom in industrialization, which led to a new "monied" generation looking to display its wealth.[64] This rang stereotypically true for Dr. Port, who commissioned this house as a gift for his wife in 1893. A mysterious businessman who moved often, Port and his wife relocated in 1895 after one year of inhabiting the home, making the residence little more than a temporary symbol of status.[65] A new owner in 1935, Alice Brown, christened the home "Deepwood."[66]

The Port residence is now considered Salem's best example of Victorian and Queen Anne architecture. It is also considered one of Knighton's best residences and is listed on the National Register.[67] Following the Port House's success, Knighton relocated to Portland, where his residential projects took on an Arts & Crafts style in the early 1900s and he began to get commercial projects.

Chicago Style and The Sentinel (1909)

The Sentinel was constructed in 1909 in downtown Portland as the Seward Hotel, commissioned by Mr. G. Rosenblatt. The building reflects Chicago School influences and Sullivanesque ornament, which were popular in Oregon between 1890-1915. This style evolved with the development of American industry and commerce. It was a rational approach to building design – a departure from more ornamental classics such as Greek and Gothic Revivals. Its birthplace is its namesake, Chicago, where early steel-frame skyscrapers began. When the style was initially adapted in Oregon, Portland's commercial buildings favored more classical detailing over Sullivan's inspired patterns.[68]

Knighton followed trend in 1909 with the Sentinel's Chicago-style proportions (base/shaft/capital) of the exterior elevations and tripartite window bands. The variegated gray brick walls blend with off-white glazed terra cotta detailing, giving the building a monolithic stone-like appearance. It was with the ornamental terra cotta detail where Knighton was considered a pioneer in creative design. At the time, terra cotta ornament was rarely explored beyond pattern books.[69] Knighton took creative liberty with these details and the plasticity of terra cotta, producing his own ornamental designs that would soon mark his signature style. These include his geometric cartouche-like detailing at the cornice and bell-shaped shields, which appear again in his later works. These designs combined Viennese, Chicago Style, and Arts & Crafts styles – an unconventional move at the time.[70] For that, the Sentinel has been designated a National Historic Landmark.[71]

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[63] National Register of Historic Places, *Seward Hotel.*

[64] Rosalind Clark, *Oregon Style: Architecture from 1840 to the 1950s*, Portland, OR: Professional Book Center, Inc.,1983, p.85

[65] National Register of Historic Places, *Dr. Luke A. Port House.*

[66] Clark, *Oregon Style*, p.88.

[67] Marianne Kadas, "State Supreme Court Building," *Oregon Inventory of Historic Properties,* Oregon State Historic Preservation Office Database (July 1992): p. 3, accessed October 9, 2018, http://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/index.cfm?do=v.dsp_siteSummary&resultDisplay=655967.

[68] Clark, *Oregon Style*, p.105

[69] National Register of Historic Places, *Seward Hotel.*

[70] "Our Storied History," *Sentinel*, 2016, Accessed November 29, 2018. http://www.sentinelhotel.com/history/.

[71] National Register of Historic Places, *Seward Hotel.*

The commission for the Sentinel Hotel allowed Knighton to prove his competence in traditional design while growing as an independent architect. The hotel was frequented by Governor Oswald West, who became acquainted with Knighton and later appointed Knighton as the State Architect of Oregon.[72] This project was a precursor to his interpretation of the Beaux Arts at the Oregon Supreme Court Building in following years.

Beaux Arts and The Oregon Supreme Court Building

William C. Knighton's competence in classically inspired designs was most prominent during his tenure with the state of Oregon.[73] The Oregon Supreme Court Building was one of his first projects with the state, as original drawings date to 1913. The building emblemizes the Beaux Arts style, often referred to as Beaux Arts Classicism and approaching the umbrella of Classical Revival. Meaning the *"fine arts"* in French, the style originated at the *Ecole de Beaux Arts* in Paris. The complex designs of Beaux Arts dominated the architectural fabric of France for centuries.[74] It is recognized by its grandiose compositions, complete with heavy ashlar bases, arched openings with decorative swags, engaged columns, monumental attics, and grand staircases at the interior[75] – all features fit for distinctive public buildings.

The style was adapted in the United States in the late nineteenth century via American architects trained in Europe. Implementing its use was encouraged in design competitions through the Tarsney Act, which allowed private architects to compete in the design of federal buildings. The goal was to optimize on the nation's talent, rendering buildings that represented the United States and which rivaled the "old Greeks and Romans."[76] Its use extended to state and local governments but was also seen in private villas for the wealthy. Its popularity spanned between 1890 and 1920. Toward the end of this period in the United States, the Beaux Arts style was simplified, paving the way for a boom in the Classical Revival at the beginning of the twentieth century. It was within this context that Knighton employed the Beaux Arts style for the Oregon Supreme Court Building.

The blur between Beaux Arts and Classical Revival is evident in the Supreme Court Building. Beaux Arts is known for its elaborate ornament, and exterior features at the Supreme Court building that fall under this style include the round arched entrances with engaged pilasters, decorative brackets, and draped garland above. Window openings are decorated with detailed hoods – some incorporating Knighton's signature shields – and additional garland ornament. Other details are more characteristically Classical Revival, including the prominent engaged colonnade with two-story Ionic order columns, as well as the Roman lettering relief at the frieze.

The overall massing of the Supreme Court Building blends the two styles. The projecting terra cotta belt course above the first floor results in a massing that represents a Greek temple. Both the Beaux Arts and Classical Revival incorporated a rusticated or smooth stone base. Typical of Knighton, he strayed from the norm, employing terra cotta at the Supreme Court Building's elevations, and grounding the whole building in smooth granite at the water table and foundation.

Glazed Terra Cotta

The use of terra cotta was somewhat new at the time and Knighton had found particular success with the material. As a fireproof, water-resistant, and versatile material, glazed terra cotta was the product of choice for many Portland architects. More cost-effective than stone, it allowed Knighton to achieve a smooth stone appearance within a budget. He primarily used it for decorative detailing on masonry buildings within the city of Portland, most famously in his hotel, The Sentinel. Knighton's use of terra cotta at the Oregon Supreme

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[72] Ibid.
[73] National Register of Historic Places, *Seward Hotel*, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, NR# 85000370
[74] John C. Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers Jr., *What Style Is it*, Hoboken: John Wiley and Sons, 2003, p.93
[75] John J.-G. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture*, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1981, p. 66
[76] Poppeliers and Chambers, *What Style is It*, p.98

Court Building is believed to be the first instance outside of Portland in the state, and the first time he used it almost exclusively at the exterior.[77]

Although the Oregon Supreme Court Building as generally celebrated, its modern construction components attracted some local criticism. A Marion County manufacturer's association that promulgated a "Made In Oregon Campaign" to keep money in the state criticized the Supreme Court Building's use of imported steel and terra cotta.[78] Knighton prevailed, as he was familiar with the material and capitalized on terra cotta in his other works - particularly his earlier commercial buildings in Portland, where he explored unique patterns and applied them in a traditional manner. Authors Gideon Bosker and Lena Lancek describe glazed terra cotta as "without peer in its capacity for illuminating the geometric, floral, and anthropomorphic subtleties of classical ornamentation," making it an excellent accompaniment to the Beaux Arts style of Supreme Court building.[79]

Classical Architecture on the Capital Mall

The chosen style for the Oregon Supreme Court Building continued a tradition of classical architecture on the Salem Capitol Mall. The first capitol building, the Territorial Capitol Building of 1855, was of Greek Revival design. It lasted only one month before succumbing to fire, but in its short life set a precedent for future statehouses. It took until 1876 for the state to rebuild. The resulting Capitol Building was designed in the Italian Renaissance by Portland firm Krumbien and Gilbert. It employed more fire-resistant materials, such as brick and stone at the exterior, which took on classical details such as Corinthian columns, entablatures, and window molding. When the Oregon Supreme Court Building was designed in 1913 for the property adjacent to the Capitol Building, it was expected to compliment its style. The Supreme Court Building mimicked detailing such as the heavy foundation, engaged pilasters, symmetrical facades, and three-story mass of the Capitol Building.

When it came time for the state to expand on the capitol mall in 1930, William C. Knighton was once again commissioned for the Justice Building. Knighton had returned to the private sector with partner Leslie Howell, and their work in Portland had evolved to more modern tastes. With the new building's proximity to the Supreme Court Building, Knighton and Howell were sensitive in creating a compatible structure that modernized some of the Beaux Arts detailing. See below for further comparison of the two buildings.

Soon after the Justice Building was constructed, the 1876 Capitol Building was lost to fire in 1935. In 1936, a new capitol building was commissioned. Designed by New York firm Trowbridge and Livingston, it abandoned the familiar classical styles designed by local architects and embraced the national Modernism movement with a monolithic exterior clad in Danby marble. Thus began a new trend of Modern design and a marble palette at the capitol that continued with the State Library of Oregon (1939), the Transportation Building (1950), and the Oregon Public Service Building (1949). This leaves only the Supreme Court building and Justice Building as examples of a previous design era – with the Supreme Court building now standing as the oldest building in the Salem Capitol Mall, and the only structure remaining from the court's early years.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Before Knighton was released from his civic duty as Oregon State Architect, he proved that he could execute well-accepted Classical designs. One of his greatest influences was the highly decorated classicism of Beaux Arts, which is reflected in his designs for the Oregon Supreme Court Building, Johnson Hall at the University of Oregon, and later at the Justice Building. Of Knighton's projects with the state, Johnson Hall and the Justice Building are most similar to the Supreme Court. These are compared below.

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[77] Robert E. Clay, *William C. Knighton, AIA*, Biography, October 1986, p.3.
[78] "Made in Oregon Campaign", *Daily Capital Journal*, May 2, 1912, p. 2.
[79] Gideon Bosker and Lena Lancek, *Frozen Music: A History of Portland Architecture* (Portland: Western Imprints, The Press of the Oregon Historical Society, 1985), 39.

Johnson Hall (1915)

Johnson Hall was designed by Knighton during his tenure with the state of Oregon. It was completed in 1915, just one year after the Oregon Supreme Court Building. Originally constructed as the "Administration Building," the hall housed the University of Oregon's (UO) president, registrar, and other staff. Its location bridged the "old" and "new" quadrangles on campus in Eugene. This prominent site was emphasized by the chosen design for the building: American Renaissance.

This style was unique both on the university's campus and in Eugene. The rectilinear, two-story building is composed of symmetrical elevations, centrally balanced on the primary north façade around a north portico. The building is constructed of reinforced concrete with a brick veneer and white terra cotta detailing. [80] Terra cotta components include six Ionic columns at the north portico, dentilled cornice, and entablature. The flat roof had a central rotunda with a Povey Brothers skylight, since removed but in storage. It is clear that with these details, the building was heavily influenced by the Oregon Supreme Court Building.

Johnson Hall was listed in the National Register in 1985 under Criterion A and C for its contributions to higher education in Oregon as well as its architectural expression of the Renaissance style. Like the Supreme Court building, it was immediately well received by the community. In its dedication, Johnson Hall was lauded as a "splendid building" that "marks an epoch in the development of our institutions" by the Chairman of the Executive Committee at UO.[81]

The Oregon Supreme Court Building shares many of these qualities but at a higher level. Similarities include Ionic columns, the use of terra cotta in classically inspired designs, the Povey Brothers skylight, and the use of marble wainscoting and bases on the interior. They differ, however, in their level of detailing and style. Decorative elements at Johnson Hall's exterior are limited to the portico and cornice, and the building lacks Knighton's signature shields and garland that adorn the Supreme Court building. In addition, the primary exterior material of Johnson Hall is brick, with terra cotta limited to the columns and select detailing. The Supreme Court building employs terra cotta almost exclusively. Lastly, Johnson Hall's interior features have been largely modified, including the deconstruction of the Povey Brothers skylight, whereas the interior of the Supreme Court building retains high integrity. While Johnson Hall is a beacon for the University's campus, the Oregon Supreme Court Building is representative of the highest court in the state and is recognized not only by the local community but by the region. As Johnson Hall's predecessor, the Oregon Supreme Court Building is more ornate in its detailing, more intact in its interiors, and more emblematic of the Beaux Arts style.

Justice Building (1930)

In 1930, a third building at the capital was constructed for state offices. Today referred to as the Justice Building, the cream-colored terra cotta building was also designed by Knighton and his partner, Leslie Dillon Howell, with whom he started a private practice following his years as State Architect. The Oregon state Justice Building is Knighton's closest work to the Oregon Supreme Court Building, in both design and location. The Justice Building shares a city block with the Supreme Court in Salem and is located due north of the building. The state commissioned Knighton and Howell to design the Justice Building with consideration to the Beaux Arts style of the Supreme Court and the Italian Renaissance style of the Capitol Building.

This was 15 years after Knighton designed the Supreme Court. He and Howell were now exploring more modern approaches to design. The result was a distilled version of the Beaux Arts, void of ornament apart from a dentilled cornice, arched windows, engaged pilasters, and elaborate bronze exterior lighting. The building is similar in scale to the Supreme Court building but one floor taller at five stories. Rectilinear in plan, it steps back at the south elevation with a balustrated terrace and light court. The building is clad in a smooth terra cotta that is rusticated at the first floor and in a standard bond above. This reflects the language at the Supreme Court building, only the color of the terra cotta is a warmer beige than the jewel-white of the Supreme Court.[82]

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[80] National Register of Historic Places, *Johnson Hall*, Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, NR #85001351

[81] National Register of Historic Places, *Johnson Hall*, Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, NR #85001351

At initial construction, the Justice Building and Supreme Court Building combined to visually balance the mass of the Capitol Building to the west, creating a symmetrical plan of classic architecture on the Capitol Mall. This lasted for a short 5 years, when the Capitol Building burned in 1935. Subsequent developments beginning in 1936 expanded the mall to the northwest, dominating the landscape with Modern monoliths. This left the Justice and Supreme Court Buildings representing an earlier period of architecture and state governance, tucked away at the southeast corner of a primarily Modern Capitol Mall. Today, the streamlined approach to the Justice Building's design bridges the Beaux Arts of the Supreme Court to the Modern language of later developments.

When the Capitol Building was lost, the Supreme Court Building became the oldest structure at the Capitol, 16 years the Justice Building's senior. While the Justice building was designed to complement its predecessor, its exterior lacks the ornamental detailing seen in the Supreme Court Building. Key features include a dentilled cornice and keystone arched first-floor fenestration, but the building is devoid of any window hood molding, garland, shields, or pediments. The Justice Building sits to the north and in the shadow of the Supreme Court Building, and its use of a warmer beige terra cotta tile allows it to drop into the background of the Supreme Court's pure white elevations. Of the two buildings, the Oregon Supreme Court Building is Knighton's more recognizable and visually prominent work both at the Capitol Mall and in the state.

Comparative Analysis Summary

At the time of this nomination, William C. Knighton is responsible for a total of twenty buildings listed in the National Register.[83] These buildings span in style from Victorian, Arts & Crafts, Chicago, Classical, Commercial, to Modern - proving Knighton's competence in mastering any style presented to him. Knighton quickly adapted to the trends of the times, and those buildings listed best represent these phases in architectural history. The Oregon Supreme Court Building contributes to this reputation and is Knighton's best example of the Beaux Arts style in the state.

In National Register nomination forms for his other buildings, the Supreme Court building is acknowledged as one of his most familiar works.[84] It was executed during the peak of his career as Oregon State Architect, bookended by his growth as an architect in residential design prior to this position, and followed by his experimental designs in modernism with Howell. While Knighton often broke from early twentieth-century traditions, the Oregon Supreme Court Building is one of his purest classical designs. Of his projects that were influenced by the Beaux Arts, it supersedes both the Justice Building and Johnson Hall in style and ornament. The Oregon Supreme Court Building is Knighton's best example of the Beaux Arts in the state of Oregon and an important feature in the architectural landscape of Salem as an example of classic, governmental design of the early twentieth century.

CONCLUSION

The Oregon Supreme Court's role in government decided the location of Oregon's Territorial Capitol and all subsequent government buildings, beginning Salem's inseparable relationship with the state government. Defying a trend of bad luck at the capitol, the Oregon Supreme Court Building remains standing as a testament to the resiliency of terra cotta and efforts in fire-proofing classical buildings. With the loss of the Capitol Building to fire in 1935, the Supreme Court building is the oldest remaining state building in Salem.

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[82] Meijer, "Oregon State Office Building"
[83] As recorded in the Oregon Historic Sites Database, <http://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/>
[84] National Register of Historic Places, *Whitney and Gray Building*

Following more modern developments at the capital in the mid-twentieth century, it is also most representative of the originally intended classical styles of the Capitol Mall. It anchors the southeast corner of the Mall with its Beaux Arts style and serves as a local and regional beacon for the capitol. The building is the crown jewel of William C. Knighton's tenure as Oregon State Architect, a position only he has held in the history of the state. As part of Knighton's vast architectural repertoire, the Supreme Court building is one of his most recognizable works and his finest representation of the Beaux Arts. A master at the traditional with an eye for bold detail, Knighton has left a lasting impression on the architectural landscape of Oregon; in particular, with the striking yet classic design of the Oregon Supreme Court Building.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
_x_previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #__________
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # __________
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # __________

Primary location of additional data:

_X_State Historic Preservation Office
_X_Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
_X_Other
Name of repository: Willamette Heritage Center and Oregon State Archives

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: N/A
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
1	44.937563°	-123.027687°	3		
2			4		

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the property include the entire tax lot, 073W26BB04800, Waldos Addition, Block 2, Lot 5-8, Acres 0.96, & FR Vac Alley, bounded on the north by the north edge of the parking lot, and to the east, west, and south by inside of the city sidewalk.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the property line of the Oregon Supreme Court and Library Building and reflects the historic lot. The building was designed to be surrounded by green space, continuing the park-like setting of the Capitol Mall as a whole.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Josette Katcha (initial research by Kirsten Straus and Errin R. Creed) date 06/07/2019
organization Hennebery Eddy Architects telephone 503-227-4860
street & number 921 SW Washington St., Suite 250 email jkatcha@henneberyeddy.com
city or town Portland state OR zip code 97205

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Regional Location Map**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Tax Lot Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Supreme Court and Library Building

City or Vicinity: Salem

County: Marion **State:** OR

Photographer: Josette Katcha, Hennebery Eddy Architects

Date Photographed: 2018/2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 14:	OR_MarionCounty_OregonSupremeCourtBuilding_0001 South elevation from State Street, camera facing north.
Photo 2 of 14:	OR_MarionCounty_OregonSupremeCourtBuilding_0002 12th Street Northeast, camera facing southwest.
Photo 3 of 14:	OR_MarionCounty_OregonSupremeCourtBuilding_0003 Waverly Street Northeast, camera facing southeast.
Photo 4 of 14:	OR_MarionCounty_OregonSupremeCourtBuilding_0004 South entrance, camera facing north.
Photo 5 of 14:	OR_MarionCounty_OregonSupremeCourtBuilding_0005 South vestibule, camera facing north.
Photo 6 of 14:	OR_MarionCounty_OregonSupremeCourtBuilding_0006 First floor lobby, camera facing east.
Photo 7 of 14:	OR_MarionCounty_OregonSupremeCourtBuilding_0007 Second floor lobby, camera facing southeast.
Photo 8 of 14:	OR_MarionCounty_OregonSupremeCourtBuilding_0008 State Law Library, camera facing southeast.
Photo 9 of 14:	OR_MarionCounty_OregonSupremeCourtBuilding_0009 Typical restroom, camera facing east.
Photo 10 of 14:	OR_MarionCounty_OregonSupremeCourtBuilding_0010 Third floor courtroom entrance, camera facing south.
Photo 11 of 14:	OR_MarionCounty_OregonSupremeCourtBuilding_0011 Courtroom interior, camera facing south.
Photo 12 of 14:	OR_MarionCounty_OregonSupremeCourtBuilding_0012 Courtroom skylight, camera facing up.

Photo 13 of 14:	OR_MarionCounty_OregonSupremeCourtBuilding_0013 Typical Justice's office, camera facing southeast.
Photo 14 of 14:	OR_MarionCounty_OregonSupremeCourtBuilding_0014 Attic, camera facing north.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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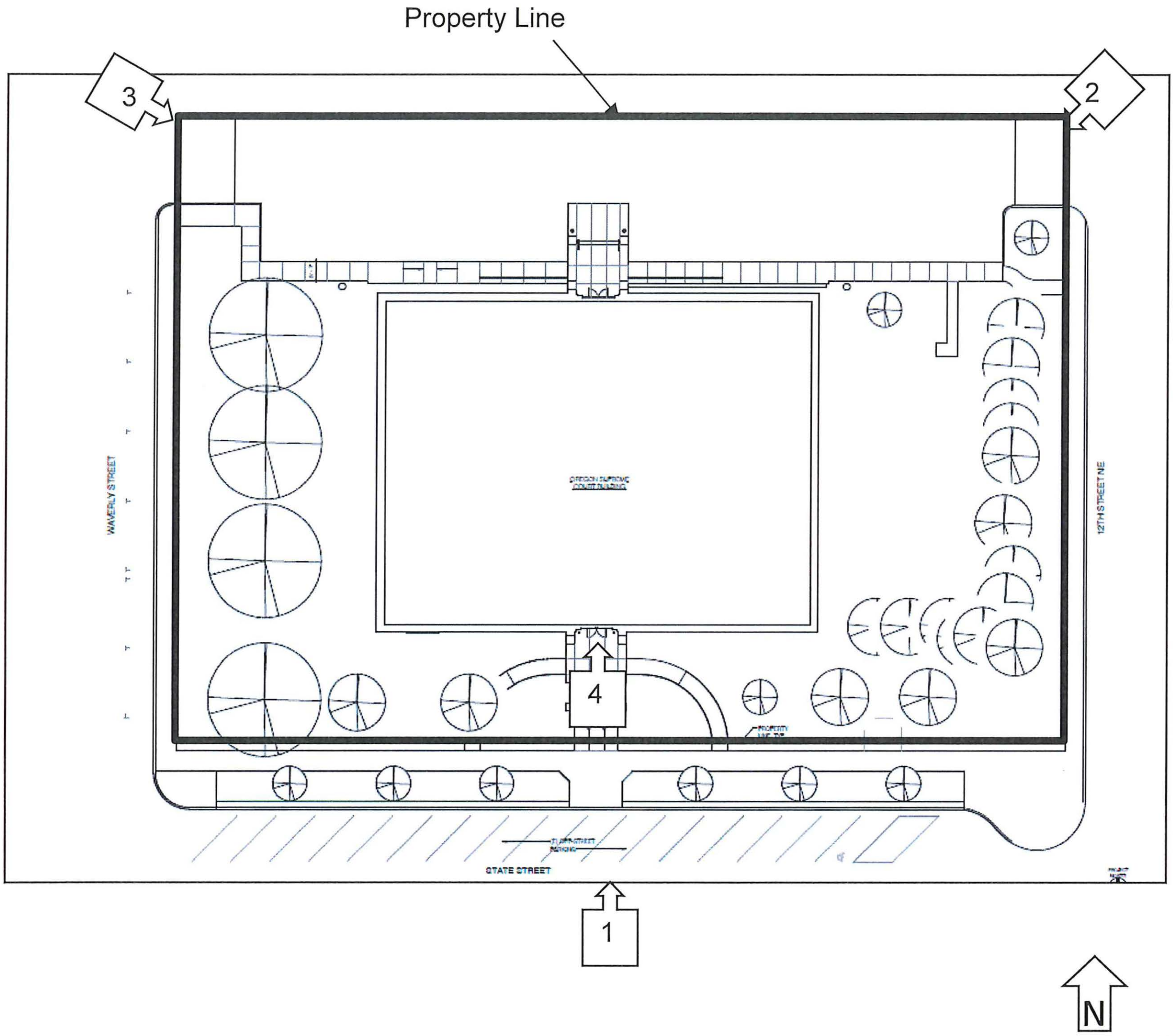
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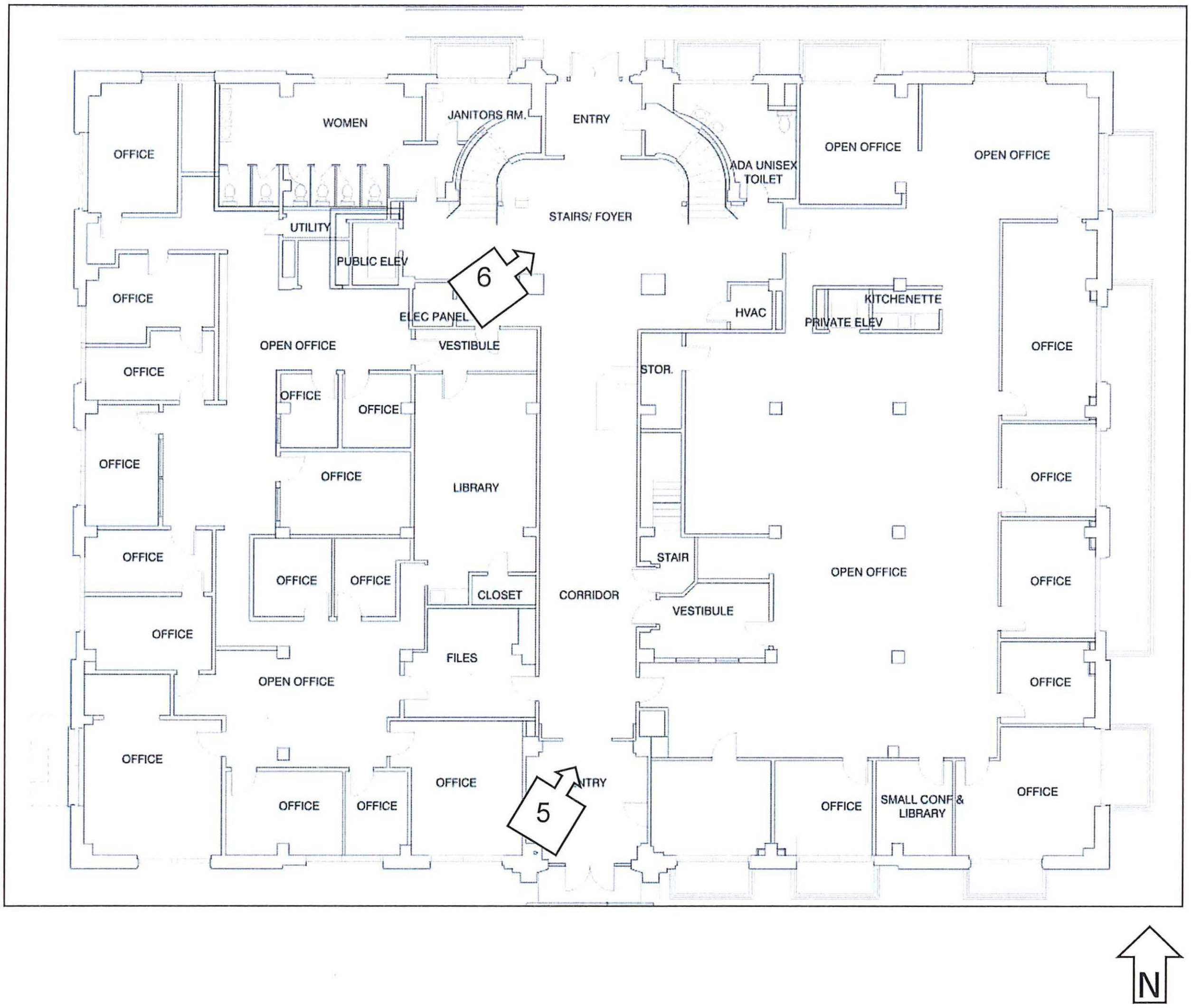
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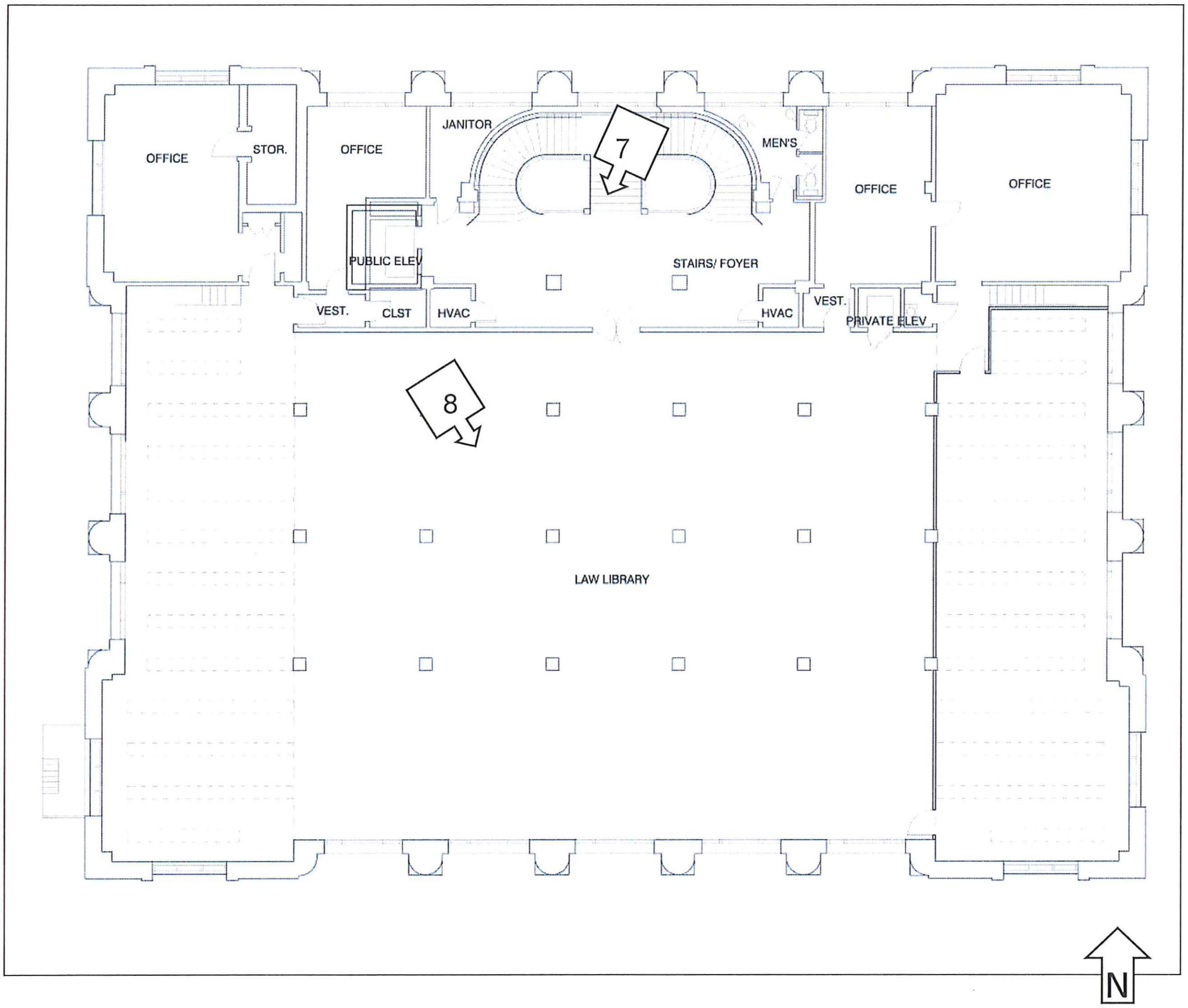
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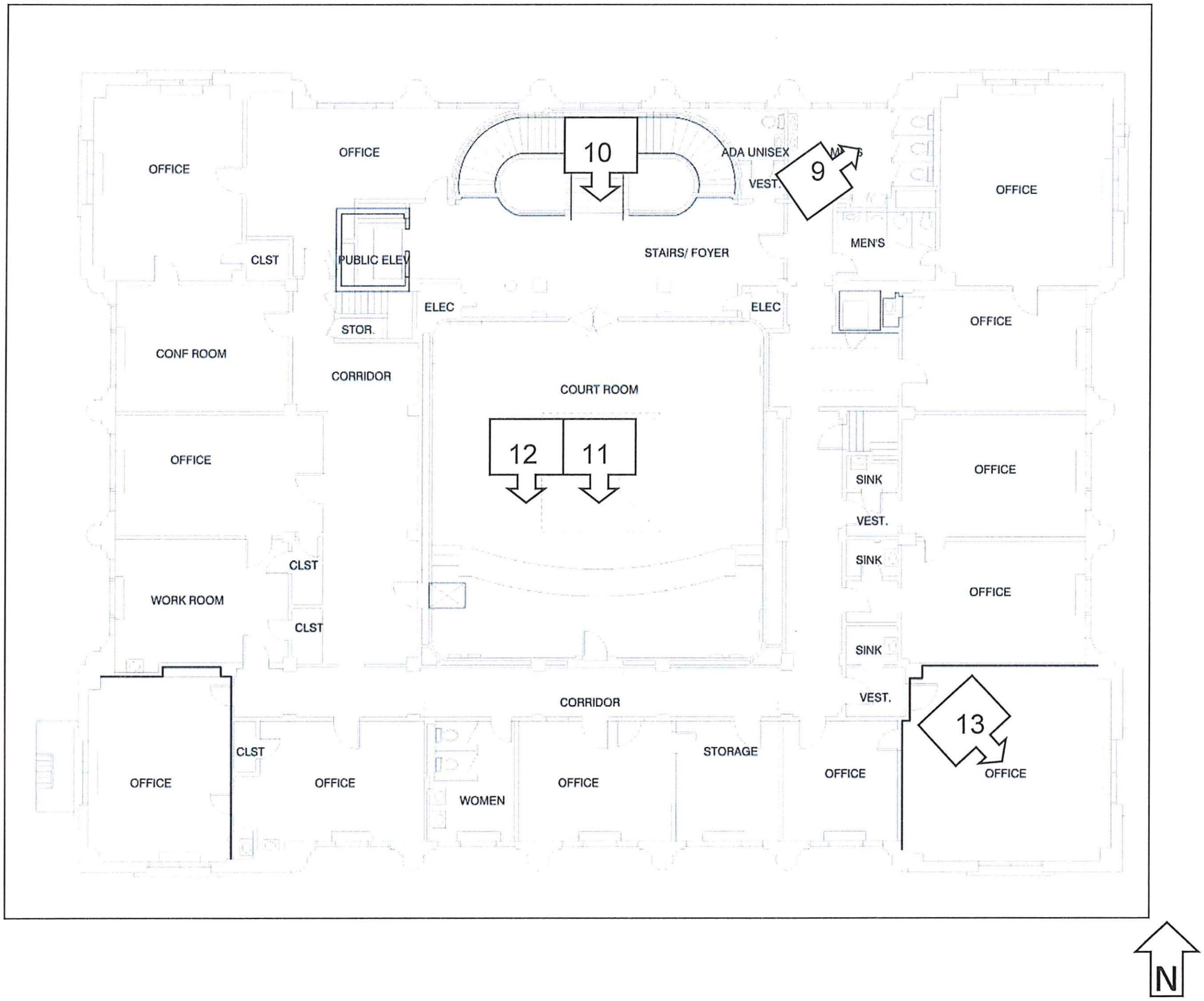
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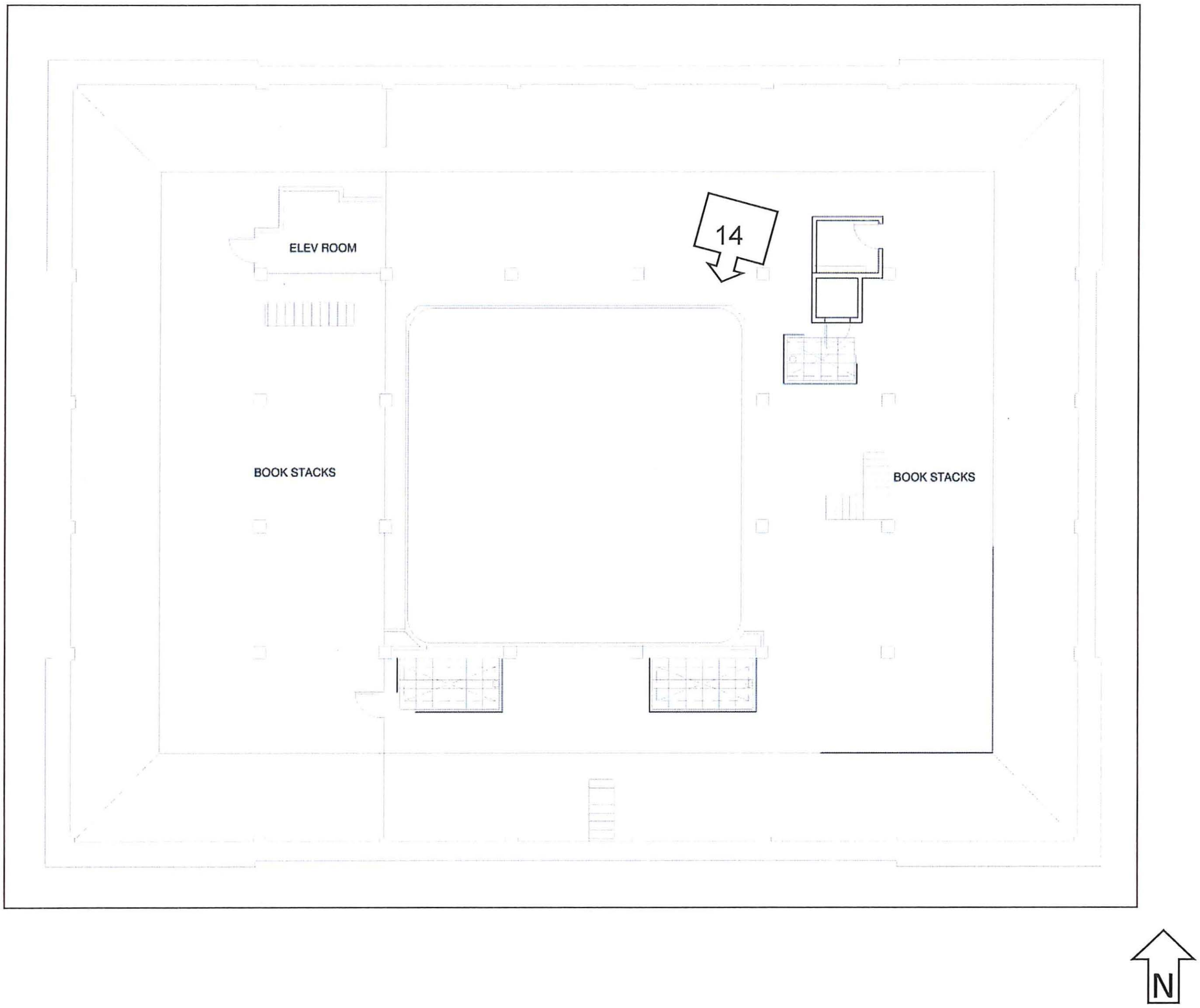
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List of Figures

(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all document should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.

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Figure 13: Historic Image, date unknown
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Figure 16: Historic Image, 1964
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Figure 1: Regional Location Map, 44.937563°, -123.027687°

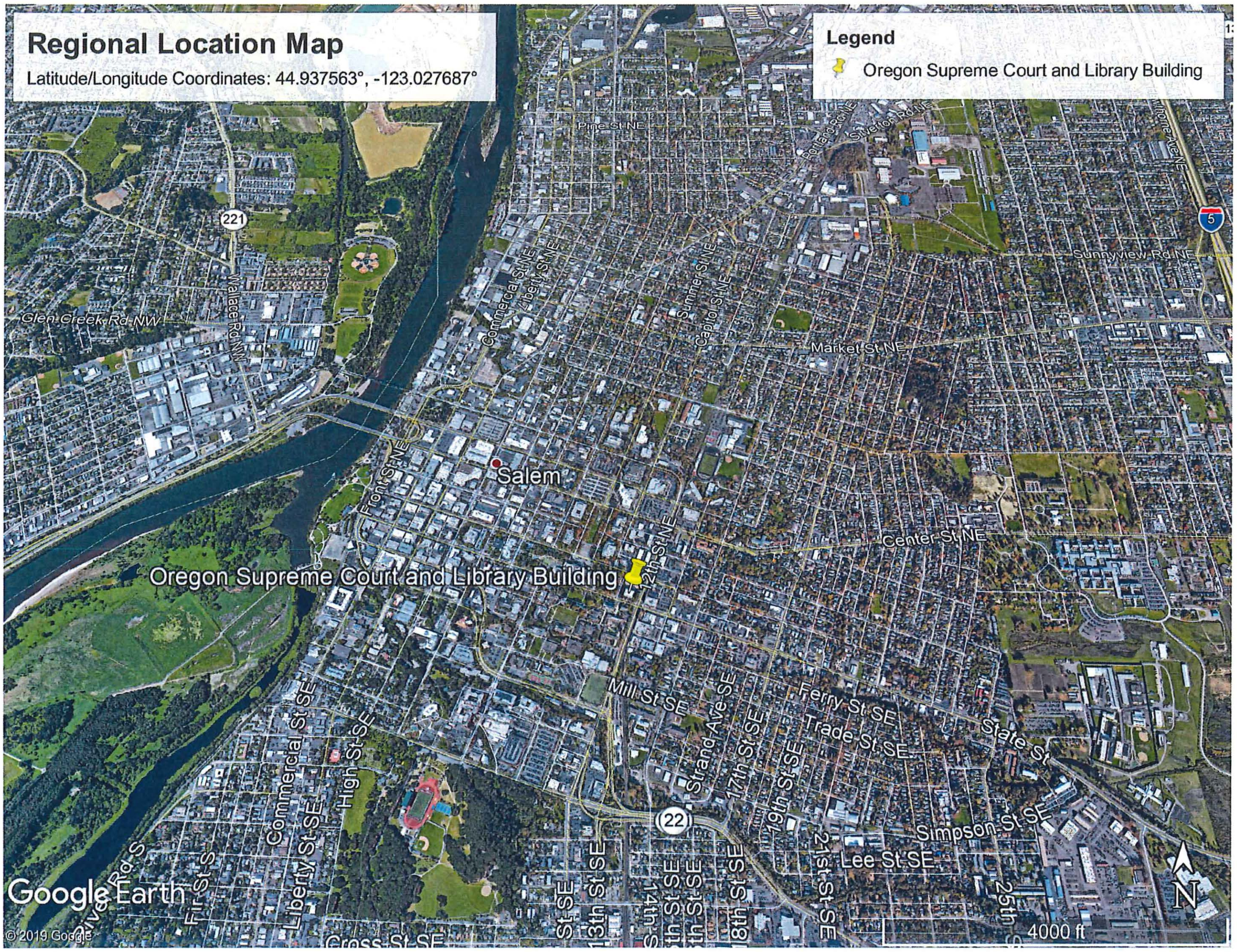

Regional Location Map
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates: 44.937563°, -123.027687°
Legend
Oregon Supreme Court and Library Building
Pine St NE
Silverton Rd NE
221
5
Sunnyview Rd NE
Commercial St NE
Liberty St NE
Summer St NE
Capitol St NE
Glen Creek Rd NW
Wallace Rd NW
Market St NE
Salem
Front St NE
12th St NE
Center St NE
Oregon Supreme Court and Library Building
Mill St SE
Ferry St SE
Trade St SE
State St
Commercial St SE
Liberty St SE
High St SE
Strand Ave SE
17th St SE
19th St SE
22
Simpson St SE
Lee St SE
21st St SE
25th
13th St SE
Fir St S
Cross St SE
Google Earth
© 2019 Google
N
4000 ft

Figure 2: Local Location Map, 44.937563°, -123.027687°

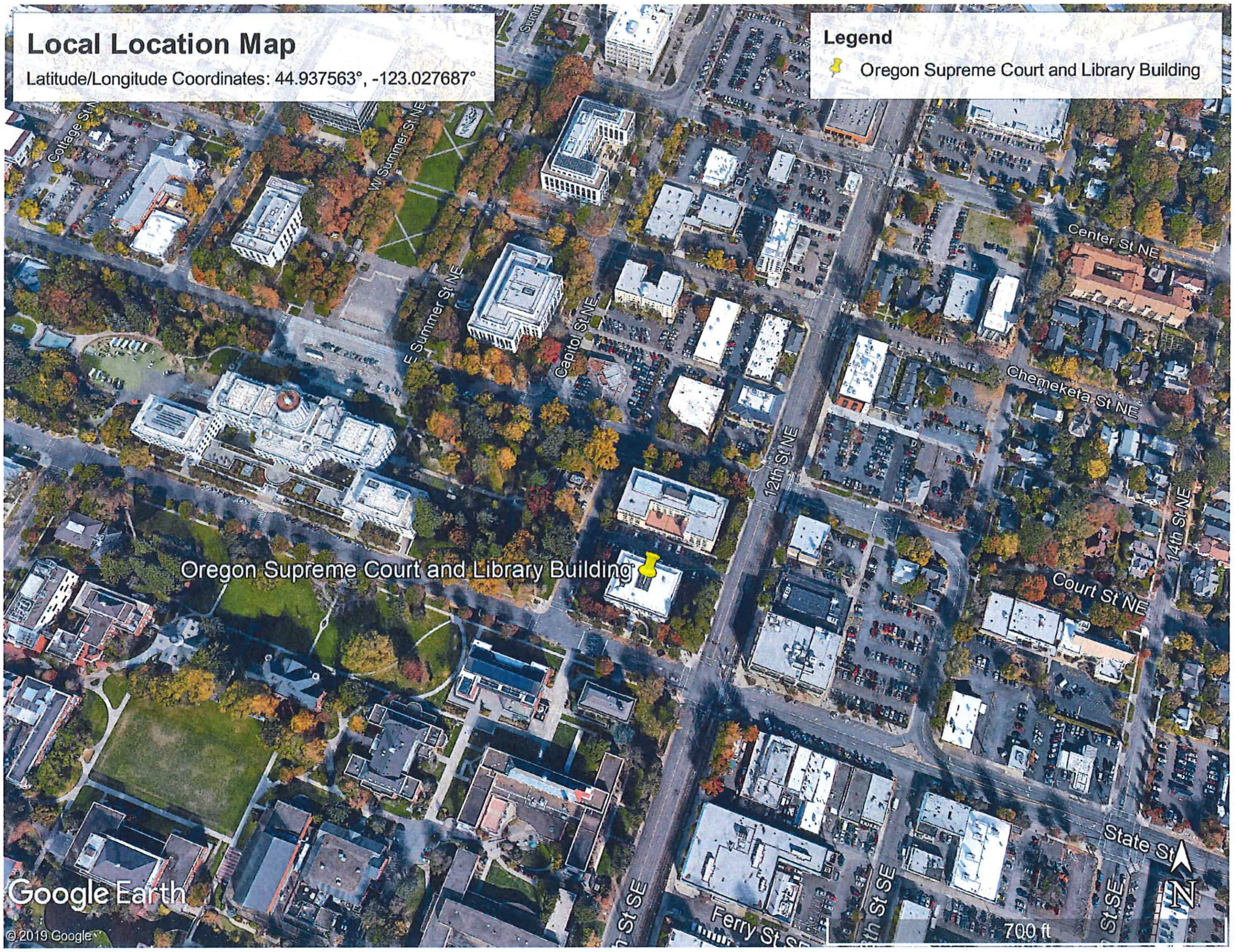

Local Location Map
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates: 44.937563°, -123.027687°
Legend
Oregon Supreme Court and Library Building
Cottage St
W Summer St NE
E Summer St NE
Capitol St NE
Center St NE
Chemeketa St NE
12th St NE
14th St NE
Court St NE
Oregon Supreme Court and Library Building
State St
Ferry St SE
St SE
St SE
St SE
N
700 ft
Google Earth
© 2019 Google

Figure 3: Tax Lot Map

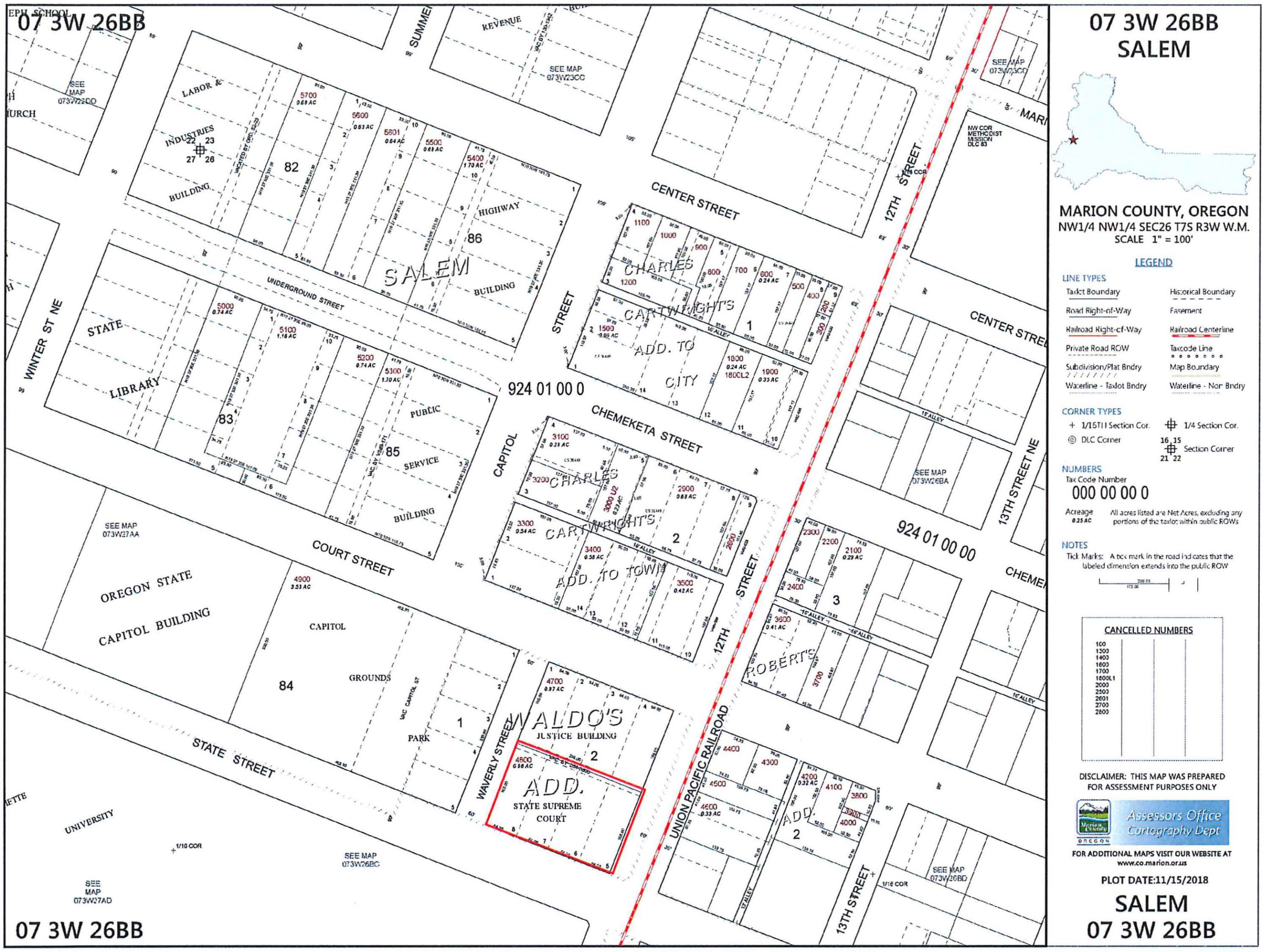

07 3W 26BB
SALEM
MARION COUNTY, OREGON
NW1/4 NW1/4 SEC26 T7S R3W W.M.
SCALE 1" = 100'
CENTER STREET
CHEMEKETA STREET
COURT STREET
STATE STREET
WINTER ST NE
CAPITOL STREET
WAVERLY STREET
12TH STREET
13TH STREET NE
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
924 01 00 0
924 01 00 00
OREGON STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
CAPITOL GROUNDS PARK
STATE LIBRARY
PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING
LABOR & INDUSTRIES BUILDING
HIGHWAY BUILDING
SALEM
WALDO'S ADD.
JUSTICE BUILDING
STATE SUPREME COURT
CHARLES CARTWRIGHT'S ADD. TO CITY
CHARLES CARTWRIGHT'S ADD. TO TOWN
ROBERT'S ADD.
UNIVERSITY
DISCLAIMER: THIS MAP WAS PREPARED FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY
Assessors Office Cartography Dept
FOR ADDITIONAL MAPS VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.co.marion.or.us
PLOT DATE:11/15/2018

Figure 4: Site Plan

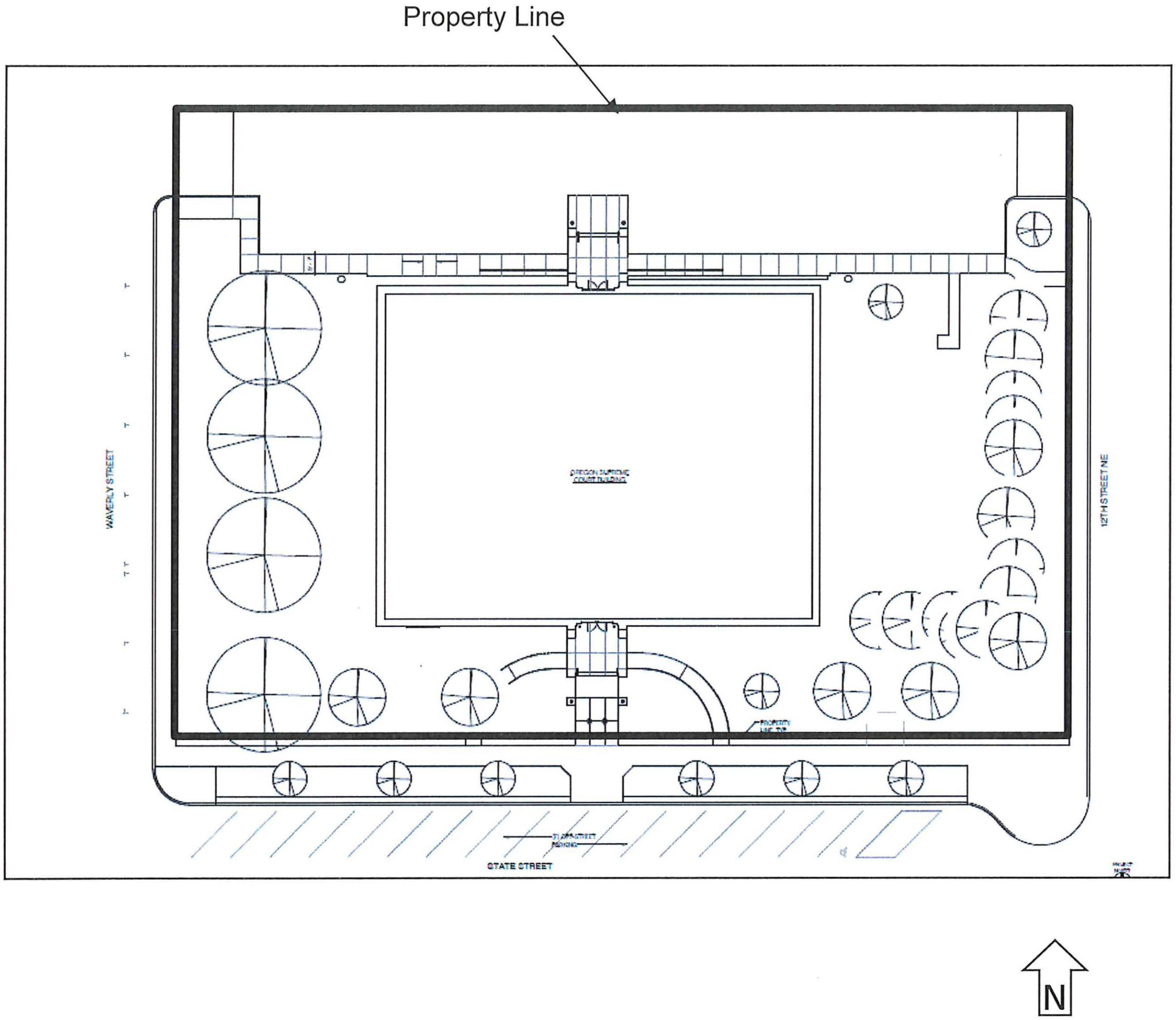

Property Line
OREGON SUPREME COURT BUILDING
WAVERLY STREET
12TH STREET NE
PROPERTY LINE TYP.
OFF-STREET PARKING
STATE STREET
N

Figure 5: Basement Plan

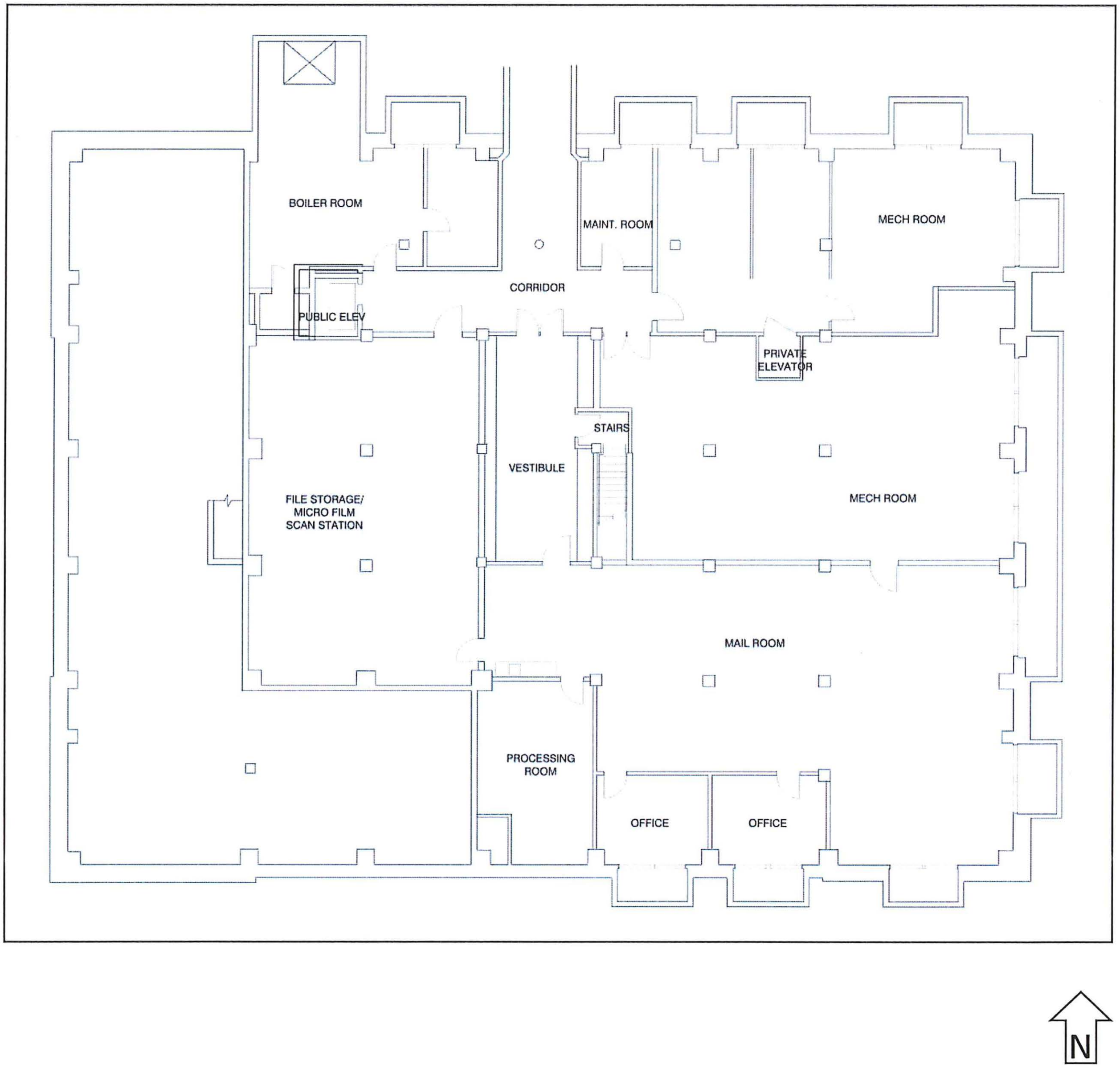

BOILER ROOM
MAINT. ROOM
MECH ROOM
CORRIDOR
PUBLIC ELEV
PRIVATE ELEVATOR
STAIRS
VESTIBULE
FILE STORAGE/ MICRO FILM SCAN STATION
MECH ROOM
MAIL ROOM
PROCESSING ROOM
OFFICE
OFFICE
N

Figure 6: First Floor Plan

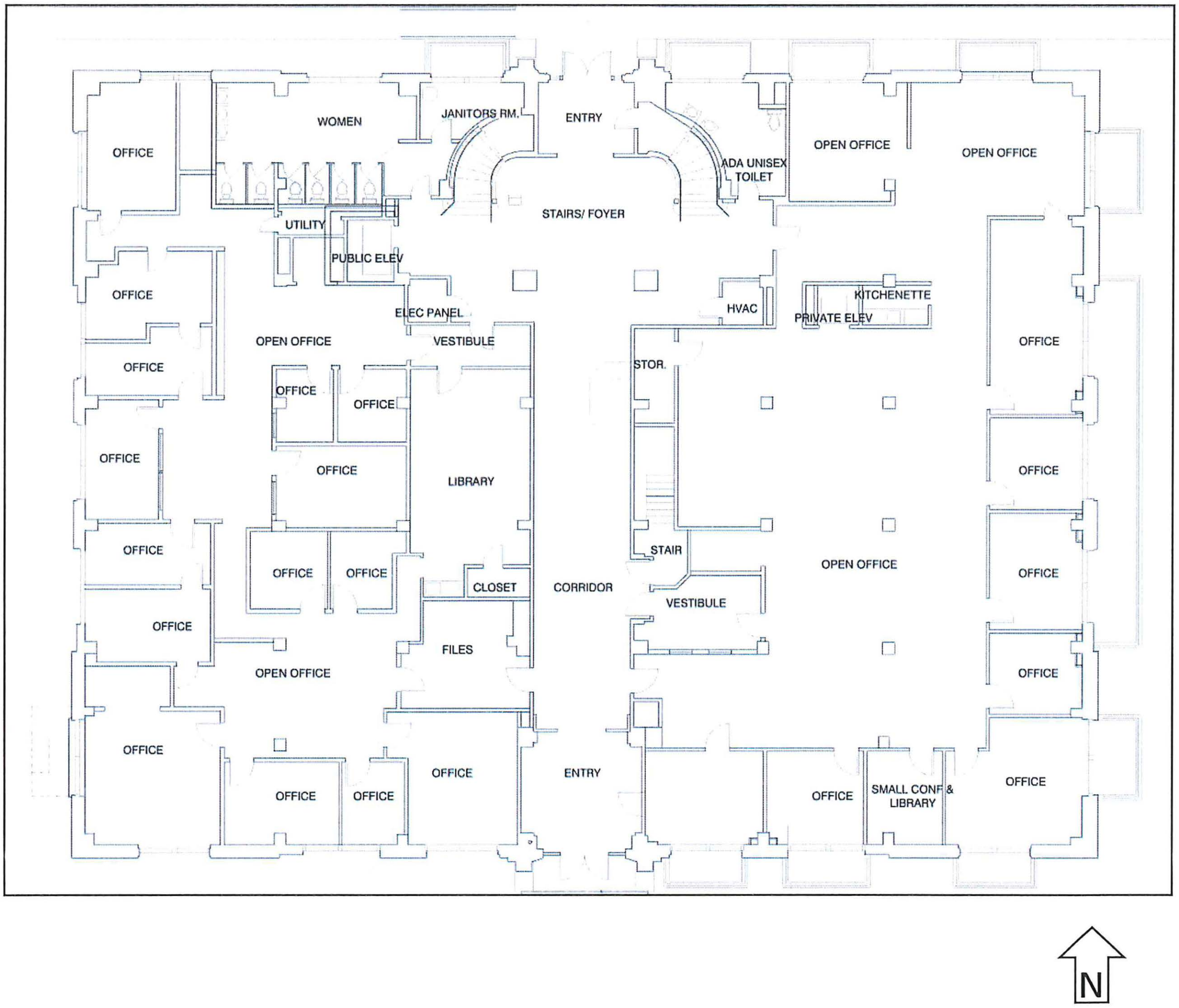
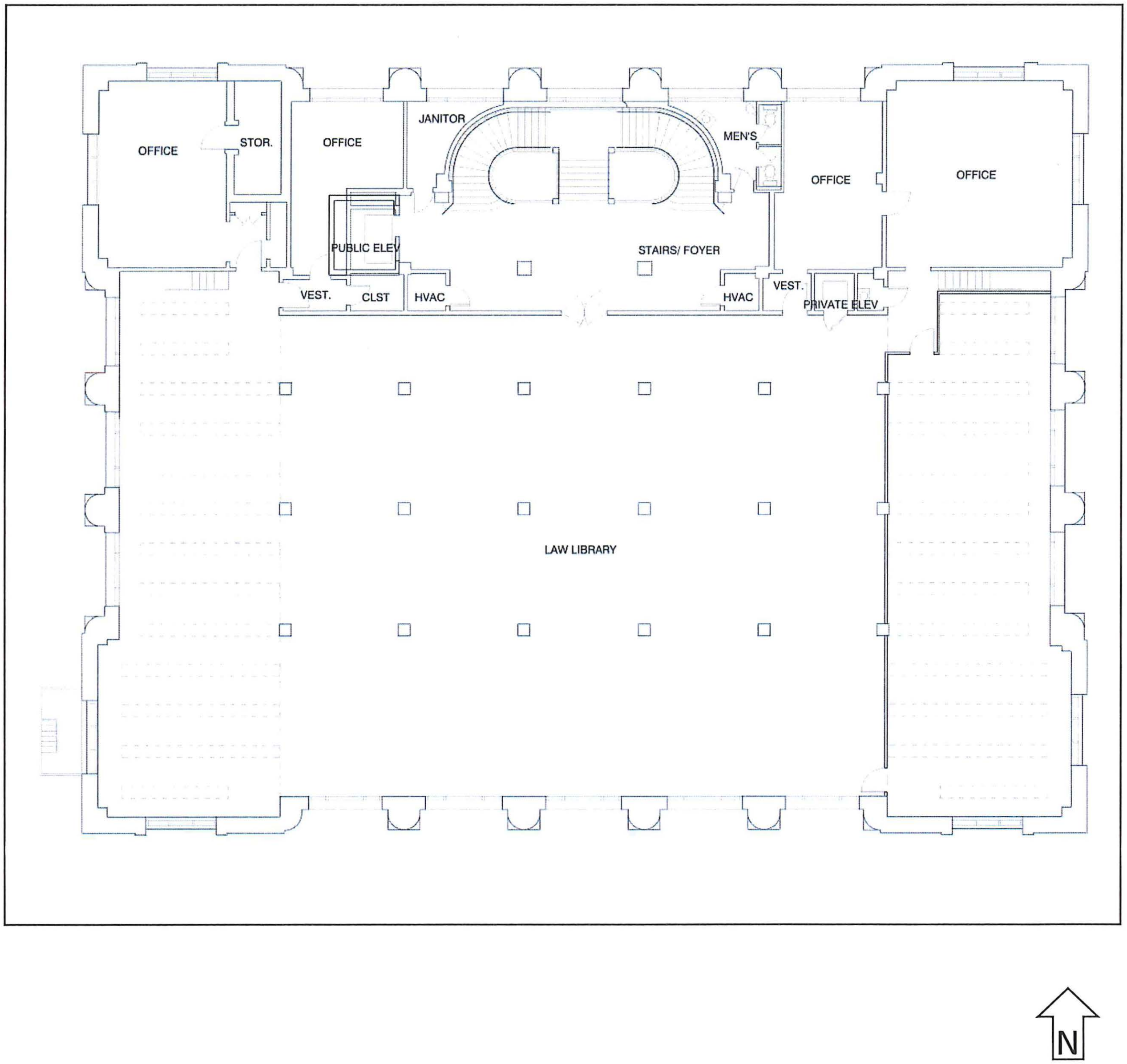
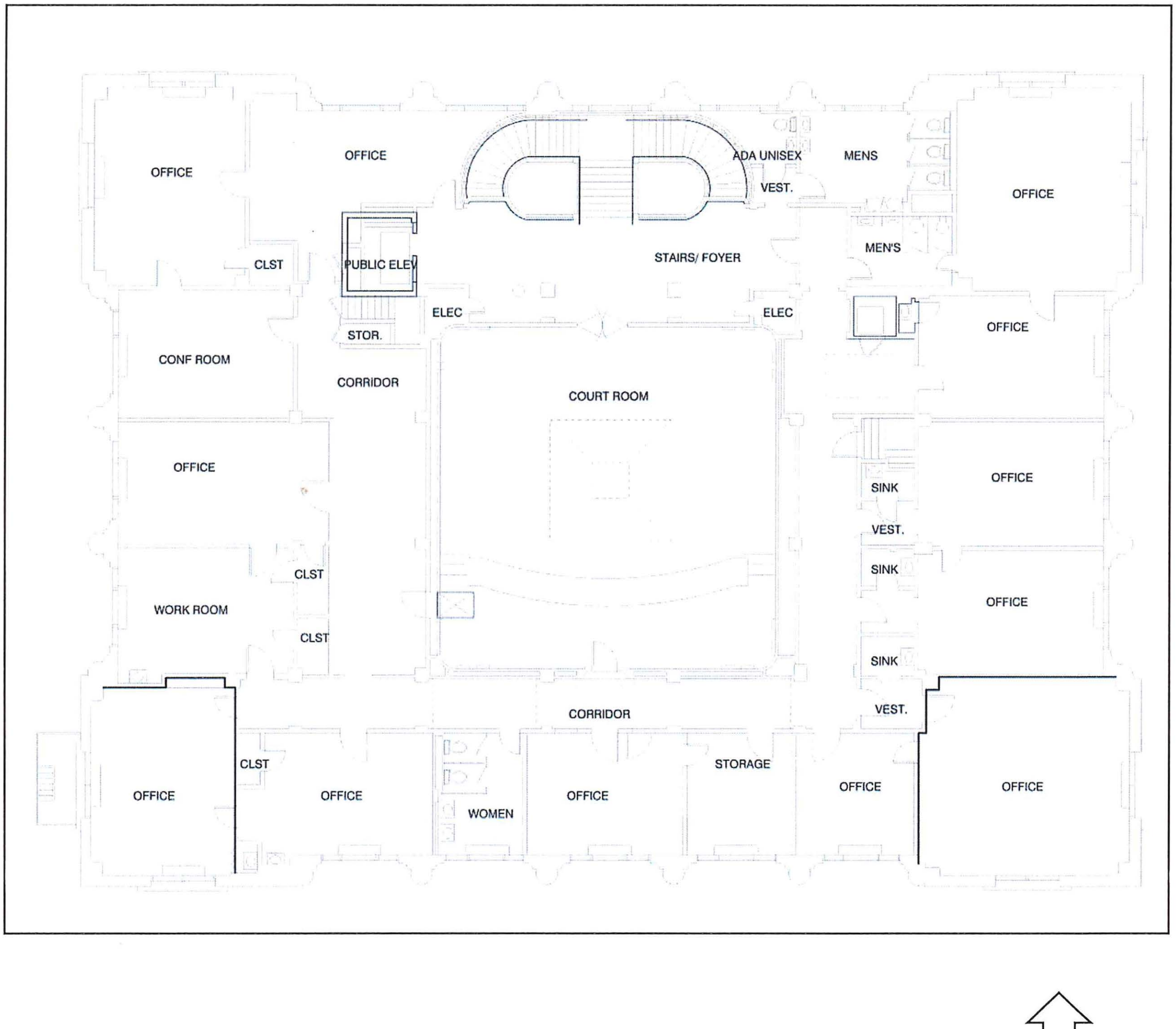

OFFICE
WOMEN
JANITORS RM.
ENTRY
ADA UNISEX TOILET
OPEN OFFICE
OPEN OFFICE
UTILITY
STAIRS/ FOYER
PUBLIC ELEV
OFFICE
ELEC PANEL
HVAC
KITCHENETTE
PRIVATE ELEV
OPEN OFFICE
VESTIBULE
OFFICE
OFFICE
STOR.
OFFICE
OFFICE
OFFICE
OFFICE
LIBRARY
OFFICE
OFFICE
STAIR
OFFICE
OFFICE
OPEN OFFICE
CLOSET
CORRIDOR
OFFICE
VESTIBULE
OFFICE
FILES
OPEN OFFICE
OFFICE
OFFICE
ENTRY
OFFICE
OFFICE
OFFICE
OFFICE
SMALL CONF & LIBRARY
OFFICE
N

Figure 7: Second Floor Plan


OFFICE
STOR.
OFFICE
JANITOR
MEN'S
OFFICE
OFFICE
PUBLIC ELEV
STAIRS/ FOYER
VEST.
CLST
HVAC
HVAC
VEST.
PRIVATE ELEV
LAW LIBRARY
N

Supreme Court and Library Building
Name of Property
Marion Co., OR
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 8: Third Floor Plan


OFFICE
OFFICE
ADA UNISEX
MENS
VEST.
OFFICE
MEN'S
CLST
PUBLIC ELEV
STAIRS/ FOYER
ELEC
ELEC
OFFICE
STOR.
CONF ROOM
CORRIDOR
COURT ROOM
OFFICE
SINK
OFFICE
VEST.
SINK
OFFICE
CLST
WORK ROOM
CLST
SINK
VEST.
CORRIDOR
CLST
STORAGE
OFFICE
OFFICE
WOMEN
OFFICE
OFFICE
OFFICE
N

Supreme Court and Library Building
Name of Property
Marion Co., OR
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 9: Attic Plan

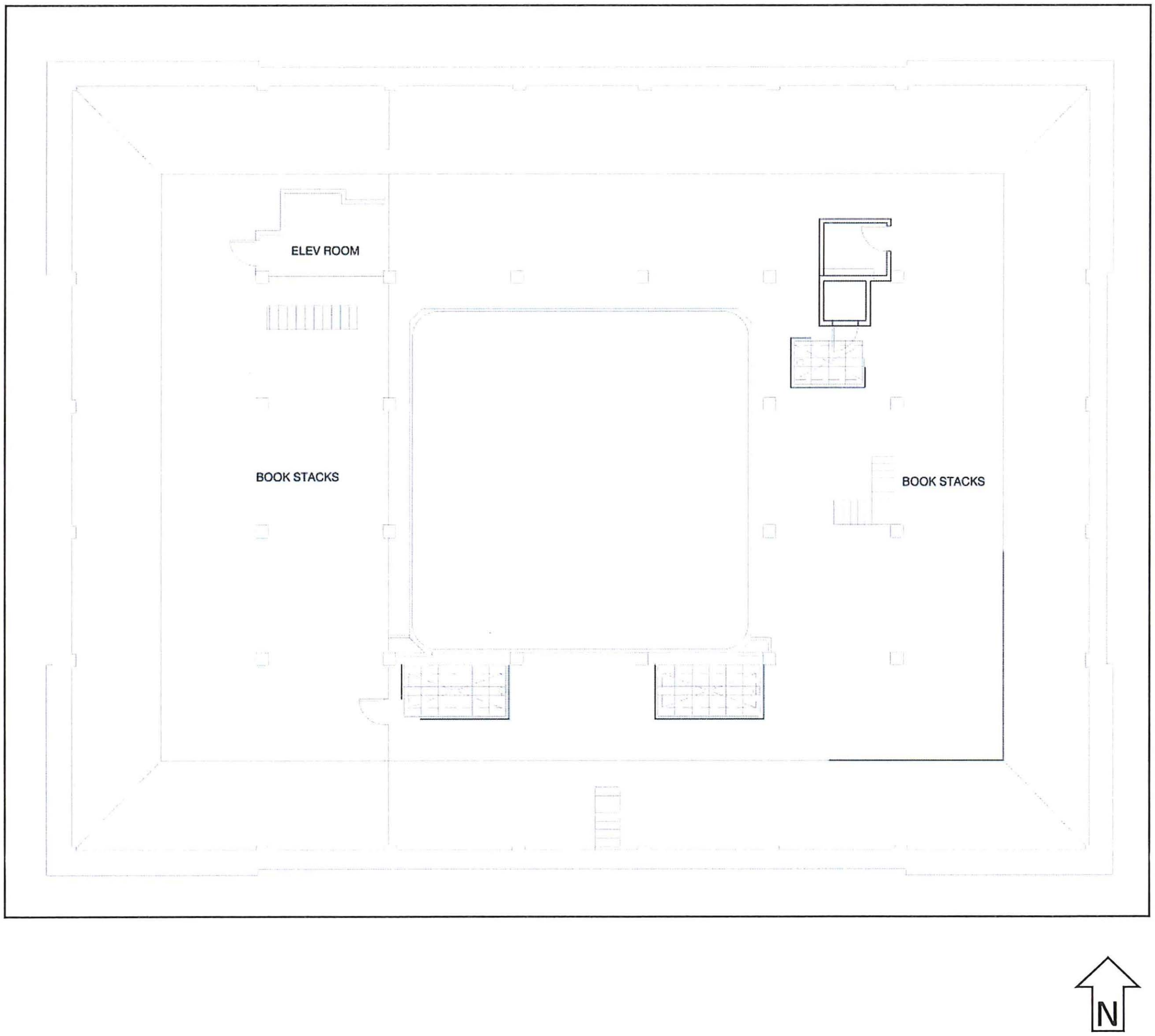


Figure 10: Historic Image of the Oregon Supreme Court Building under construction, looking east. Ca. 1913. (*Oregon Supreme Court building under construction, c. 1912-1913*, Photograph, From the Oregon Encyclopedia, https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/oregon_supreme_court_building/#.XUh7c29KhaQ, accessed December 18, 2018.)

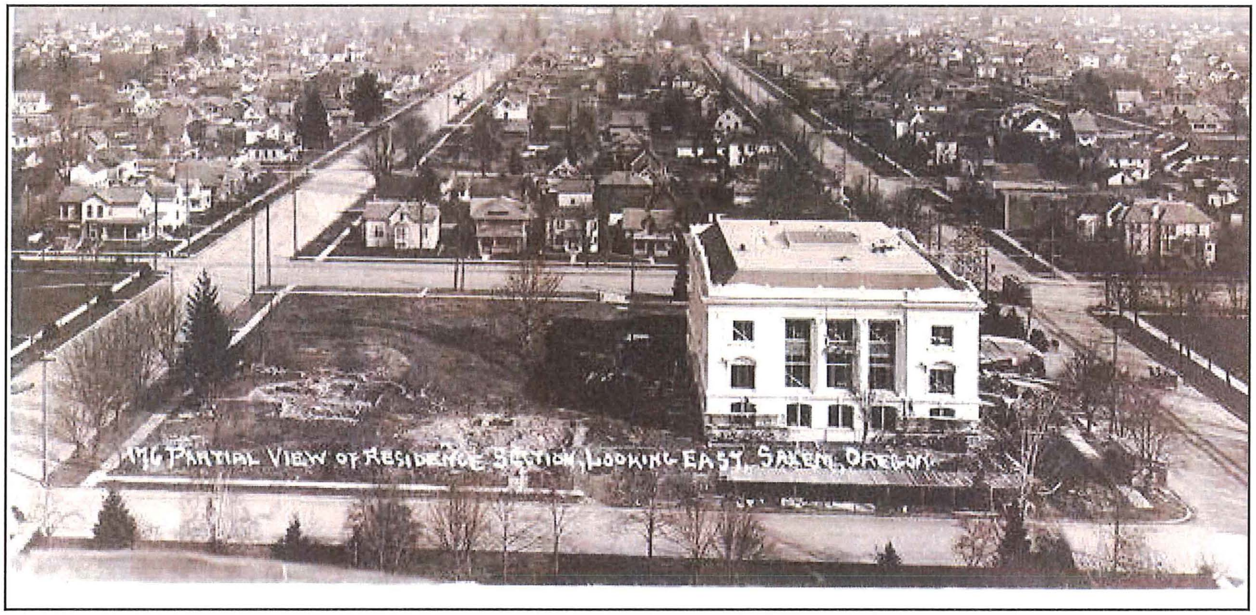
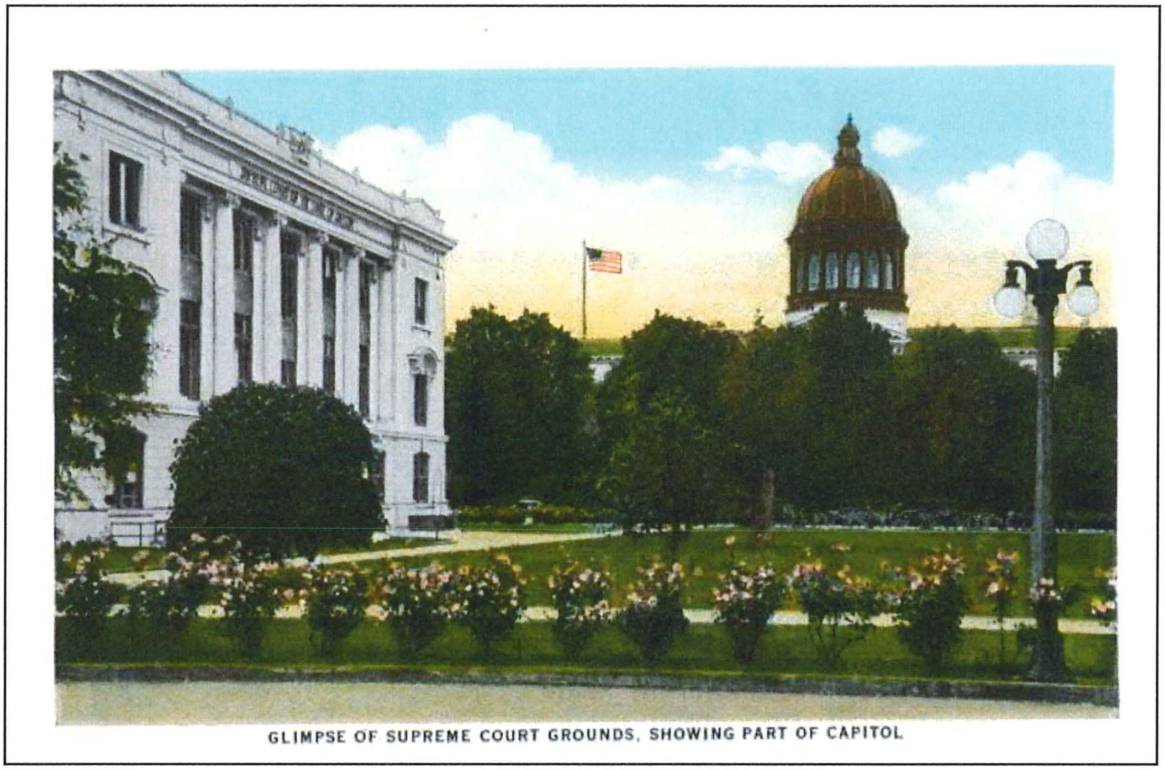

116 PARTIAL VIEW OF RESIDENCE SECTION, LOOKING EAST, SALEM, OREGON.

Figure 11: Oregon Supreme Court Building postcard, predating 1930, showcasing the 1876 State Capitol Building in the background with its copper dome. Original rose bushes line the building perimeter. Ca. 1914. (*Glimpse of Supreme Court Grounds Showing Part of Capitol, Salem, Oregon,* Postcard, ca. 1915, From Willamette Heritage Center Archives, accessed December 12, 2018.)



GLIMPSE OF SUPREME COURT GROUNDS, SHOWING PART OF CAPITOL

Figure 12: Supreme Court Justices in the third floor courtroom in 1915. (Printed Photograph, 1915, located in Oregon State Law Library, accessed August 1, 2019.)

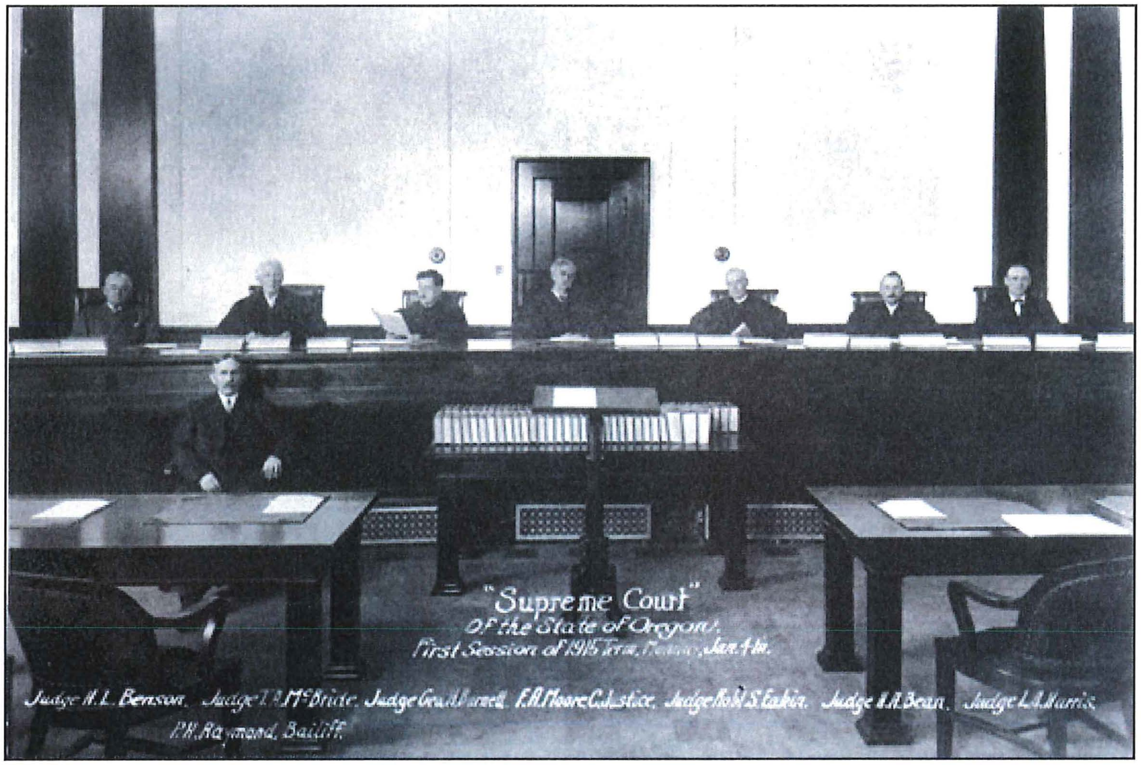

"Supreme Court"
Of the State of Oregon,
First Session of 1915 Term, Monday, Jan. 4th.
Judge H. L. Benson. Judge T. A. McBride. Judge Geo. H. Burnett. F. A. Moore C. Justice. Judge Robt S. Eakin. Judge H. A. Bean. Judge L. A. Harris.
P. H. Raymond, Bailiff.

Figure 13: Exterior view of the Oregon Supreme Court Building from the southeast corner looking northwest. Awnings were installed temporarily. (Printed Photograph, date unknown, From Oregon Historical Society Archives, accessed 2011).

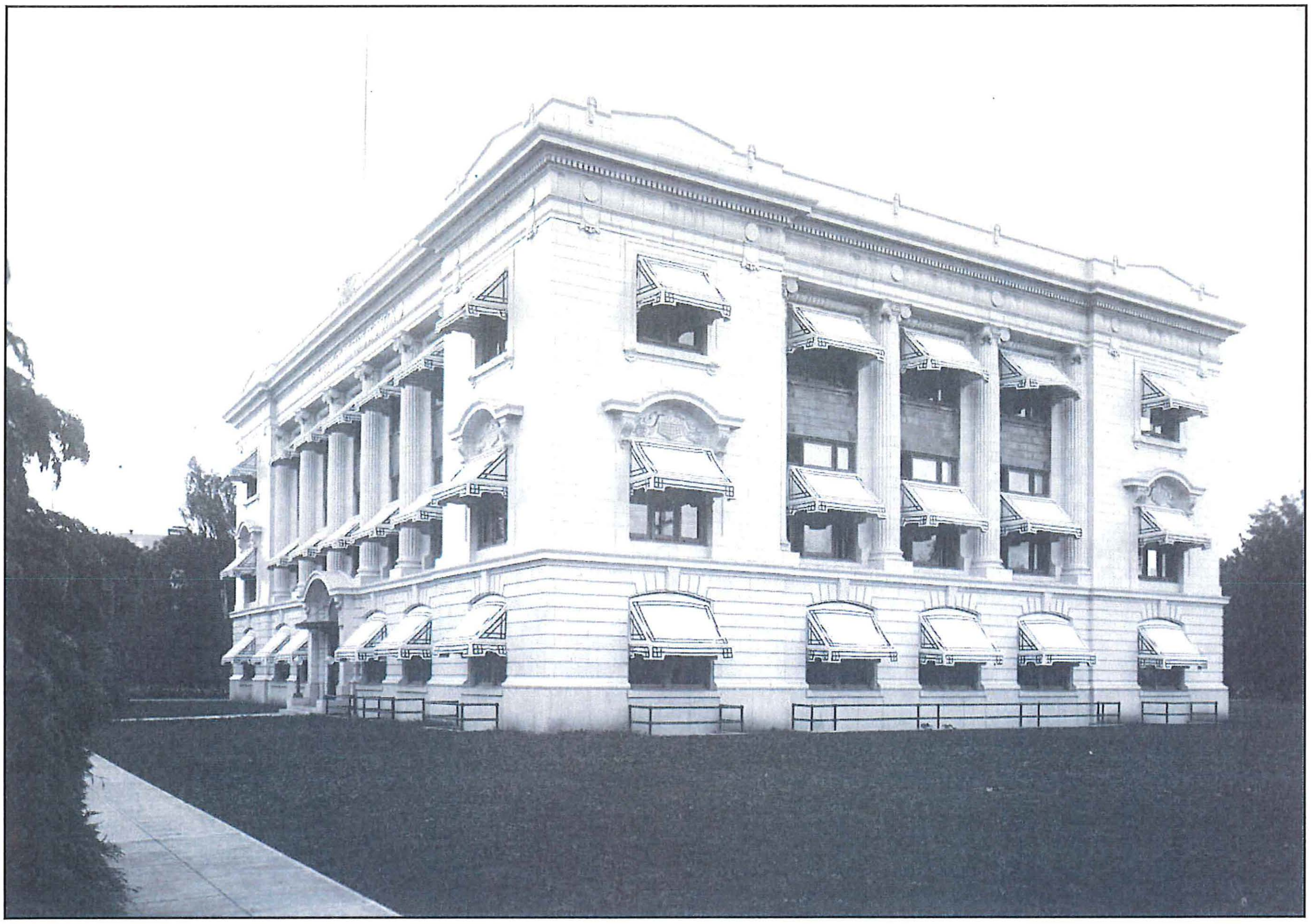


Figure 14: Aerial view of the Capitol Mall area, c.1940. The Oregon Supreme Court Building and Justice Buildings are pictured east (left) of the Capitol Building. (Printed Photograph c.1940, From Oregon State Library Archives, accessed December 12, 2018.)

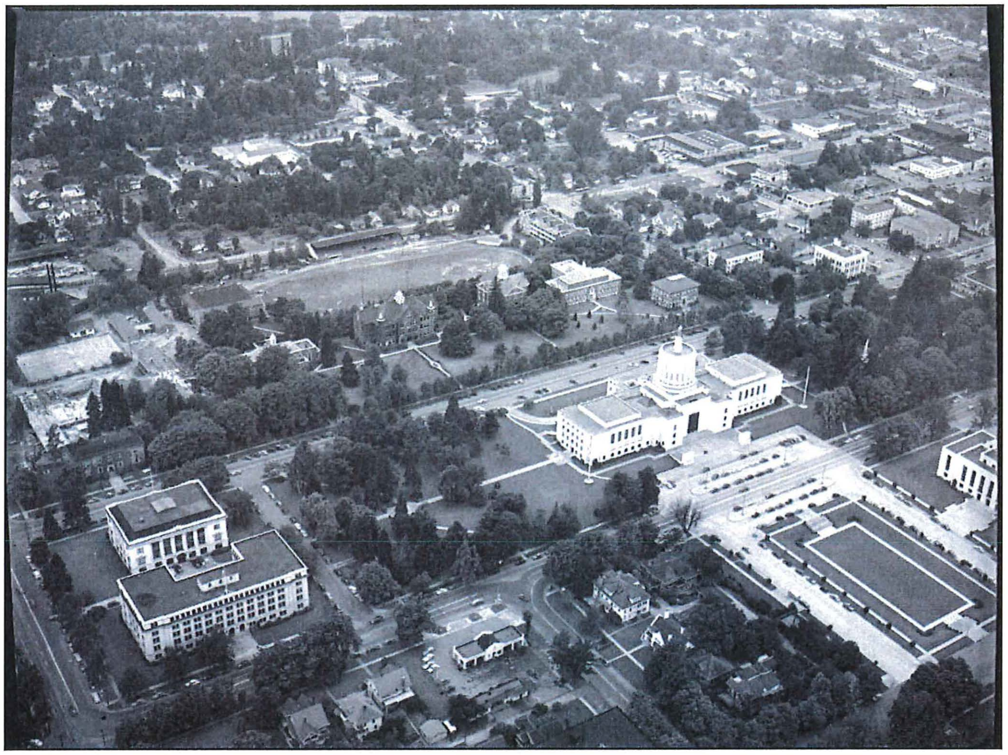


Figure 15: Aerial view of Salem Capitol Mall with the Oregon Supreme Court Building and Justice Building in the foreground and the modern Capitol Building and associated state buildings in the background. 1955 (McEwan, *Aerial view of Capitol Mall area of downtown Salem, Oregon, 1955-1958*, Photograph, From http://photos.salemhistory.net/cdm/singleitem/collection/specialcol/id/2217/rec/19, accessed December 12, 2018.)

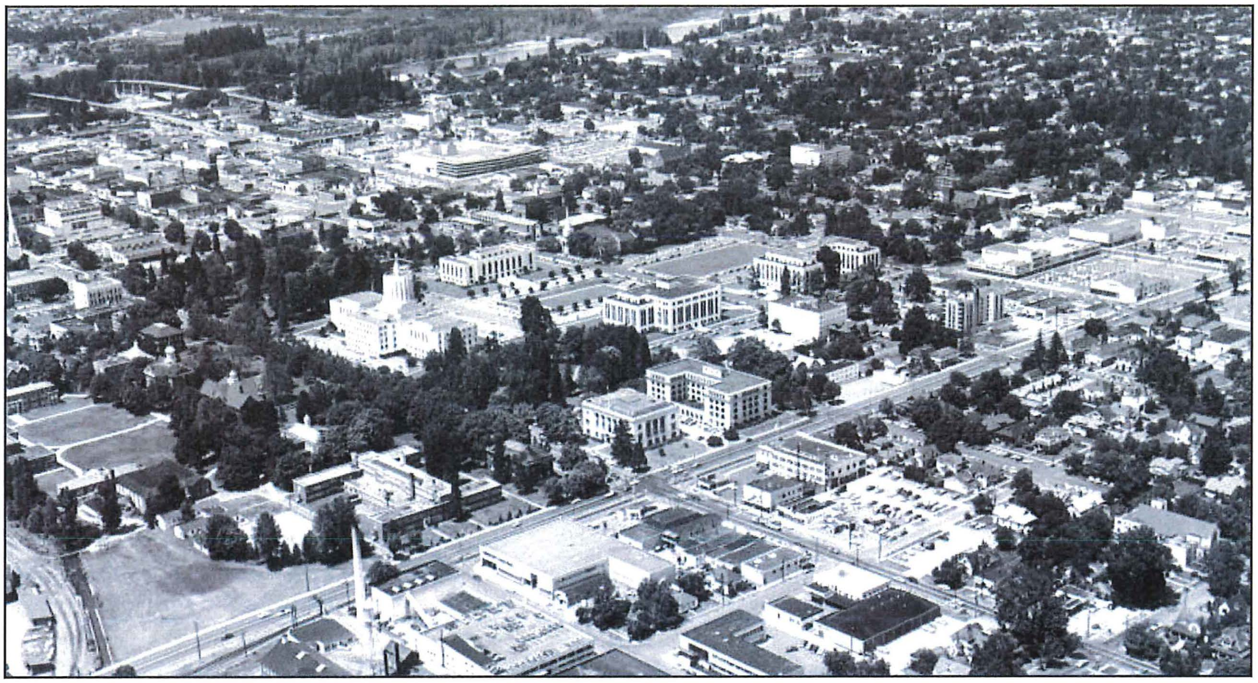


Figure 16: Historic image of Oregon Supreme Court Building (left), Justice Building (right), two Camperdown Elms at parking entrance (foreground), with a glimpse of the Capitol Building in the background. (*Oregon Supreme Court, State Capitol and Justice Buildings in Salem, Oregon, 1964*, Photograph, From http://photos.salemhistory.net/cdm/singleitem/collection/orarc/id/743/rec/27, accessed December 12, 2018).

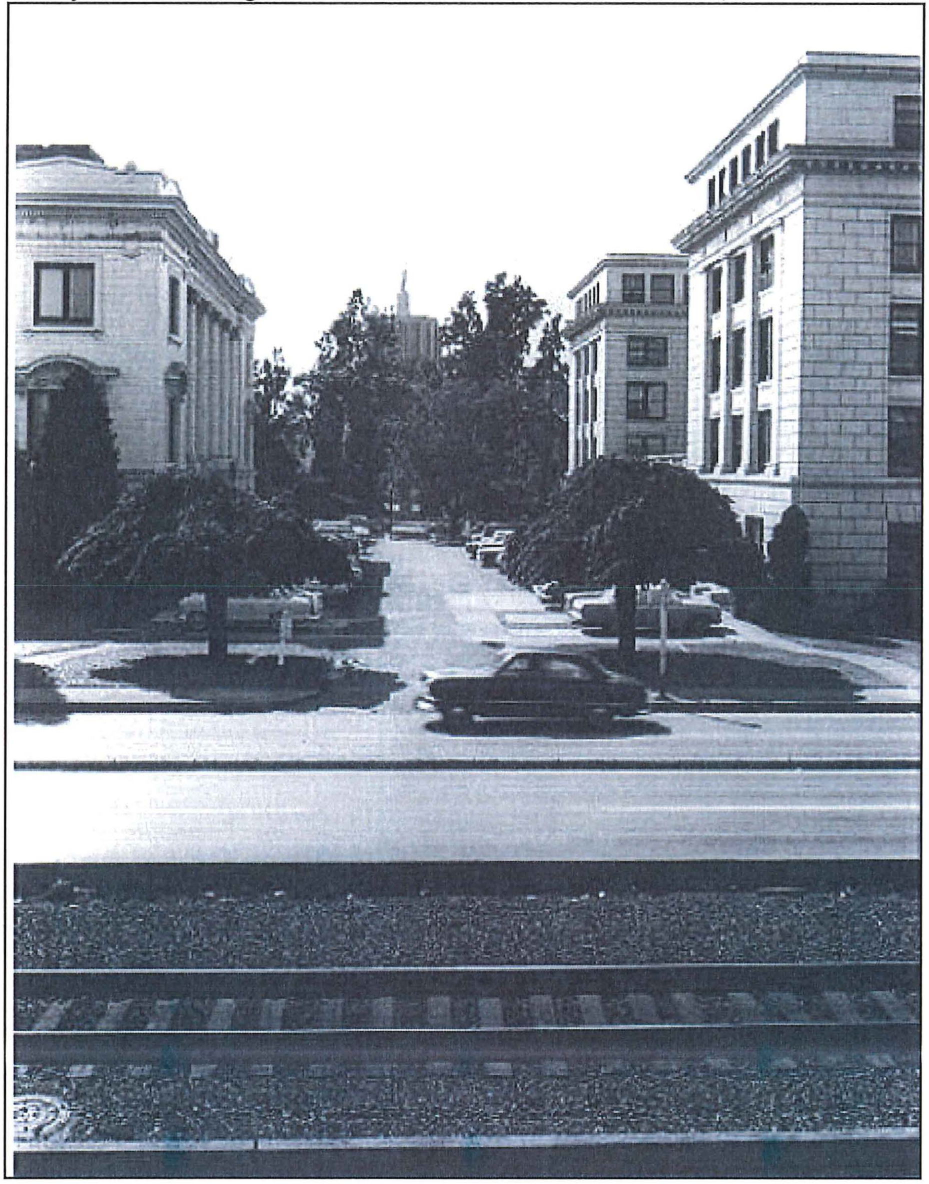


Figure 17: Dr. Port House, AKA Deepwood Estate in Salem, Oregon, designed by Knighton and constructed 1894 in the Queen Anne style. (*Dr. Luke A. Port House*, Photograph, From http://oregonlink.com/deepwood/deepwood/, accessed December 12, 2018.)

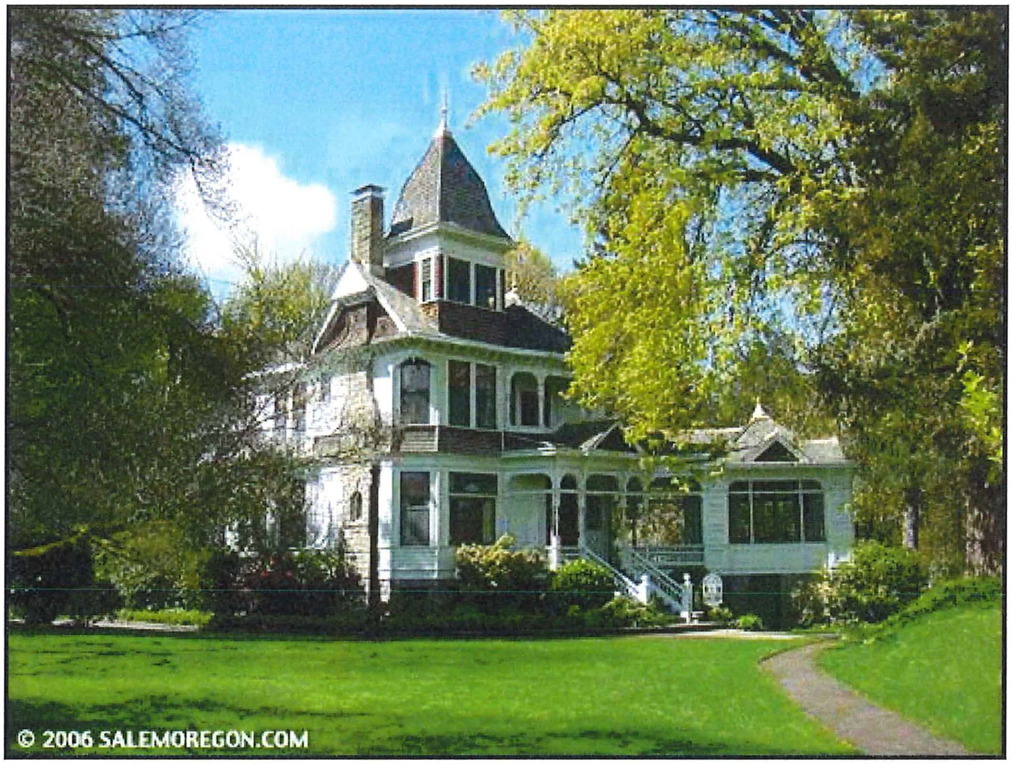


Figure 18: The Seward Hotel (today The Sentinel), constructed in 1910 and designed by Knighton. (Google Streetview, Google Maps, accessed December 12, 2018)

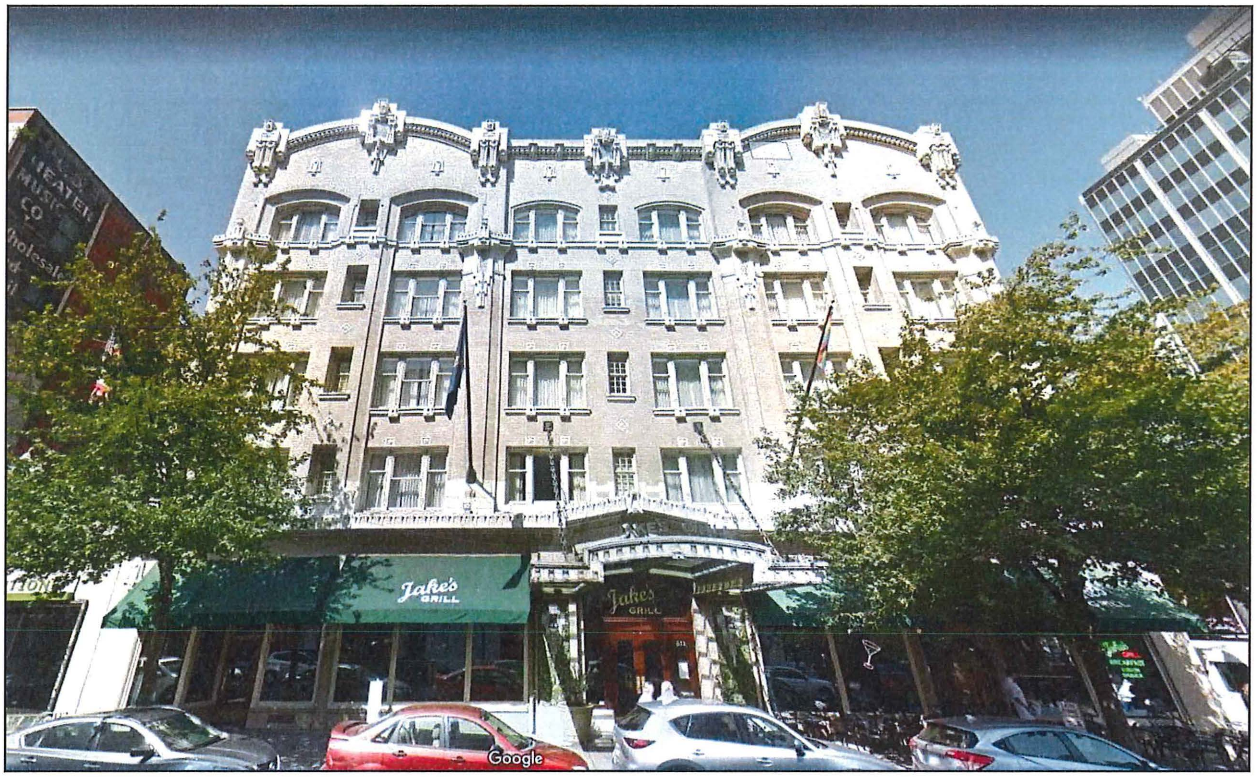
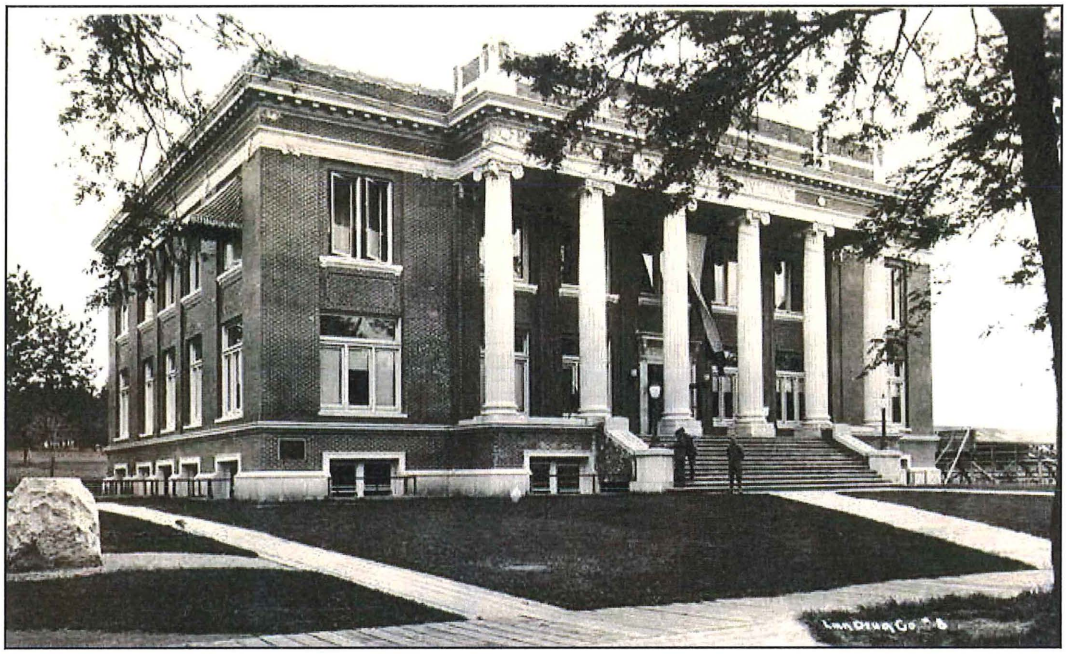


Figure 19: Johnson Hall (formerly the Administration Building) on the University of Oregon's Campus in Eugene, OR. Designed by Knighton, 1915. Top image is a historic image of the north elevation, date unknown (*Johnson Hall, University of Oregon*, Photograph, UO Libraries, From https://oregondigital.org/catalog/oregondigital:fx71bw696, accessed December 12, 2018.) Bottom image is the interior lobby in recent years, showcasing a restored section of the Povey Brothers skylight that was removed from the rotunda. (Google Streetview, Google Maps, accessed December 12, 2018)



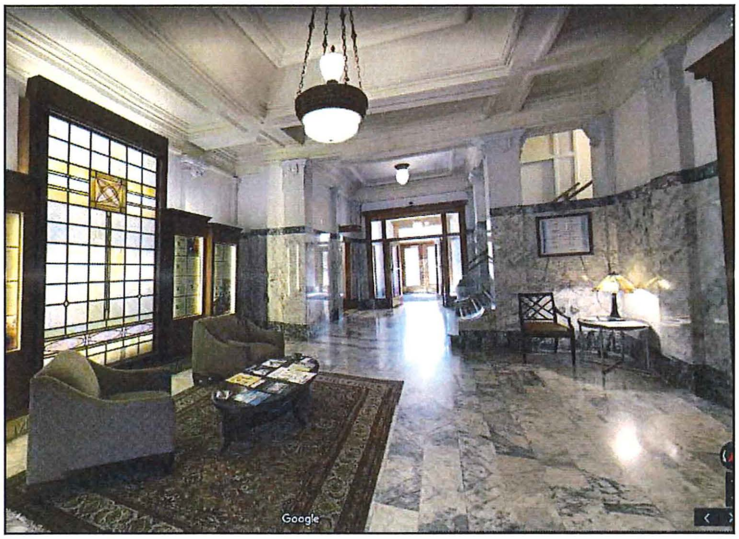
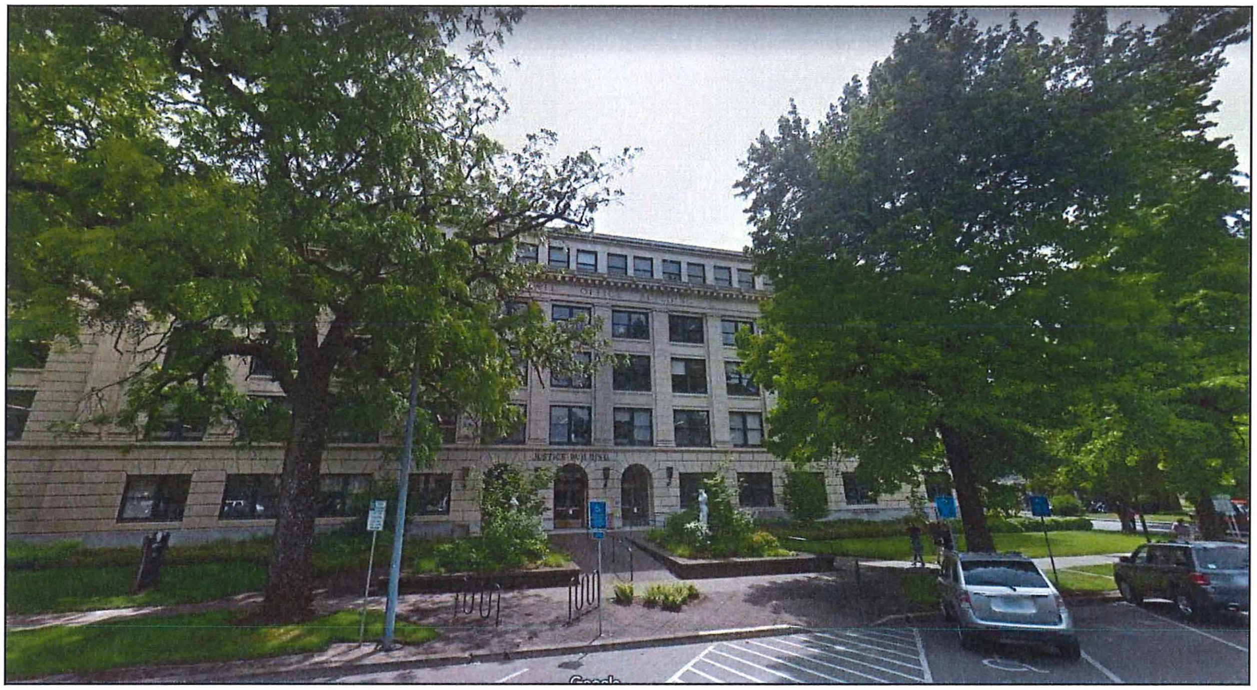


Figure 20: Justice Building, completed in 1930 and designed by Knighton and Howell. (Google Streetview, Google Maps, accessed December 12, 2018)



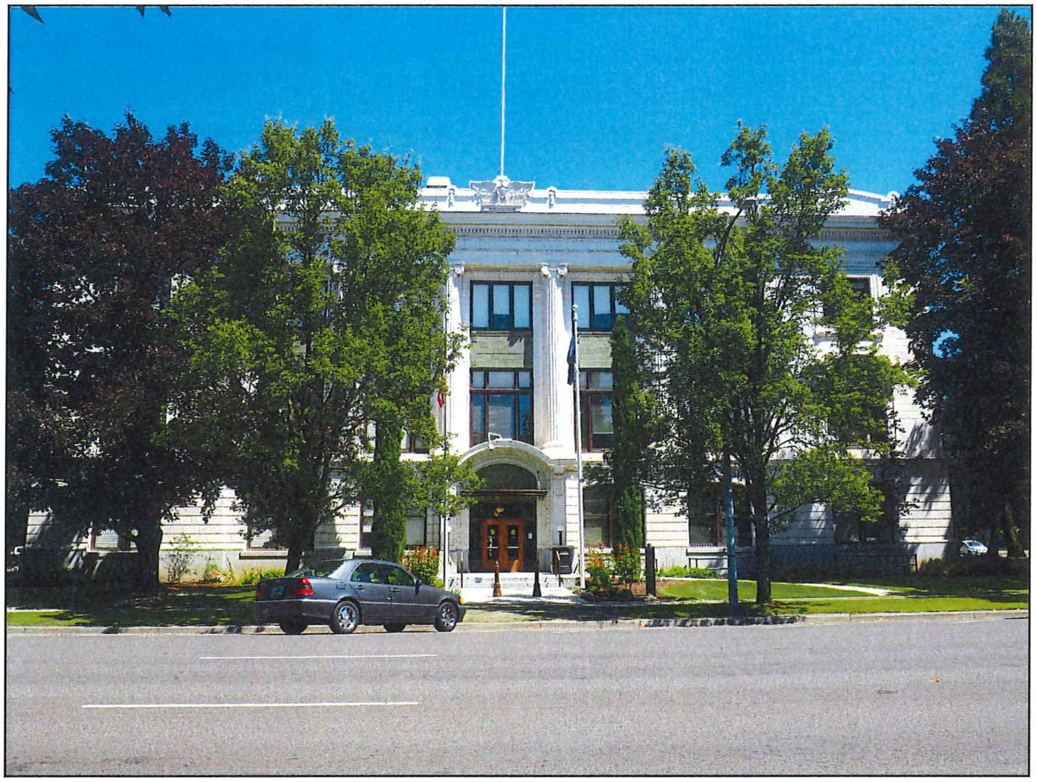


Photo 1 of 14: South elevation from State Street, camera facing north.

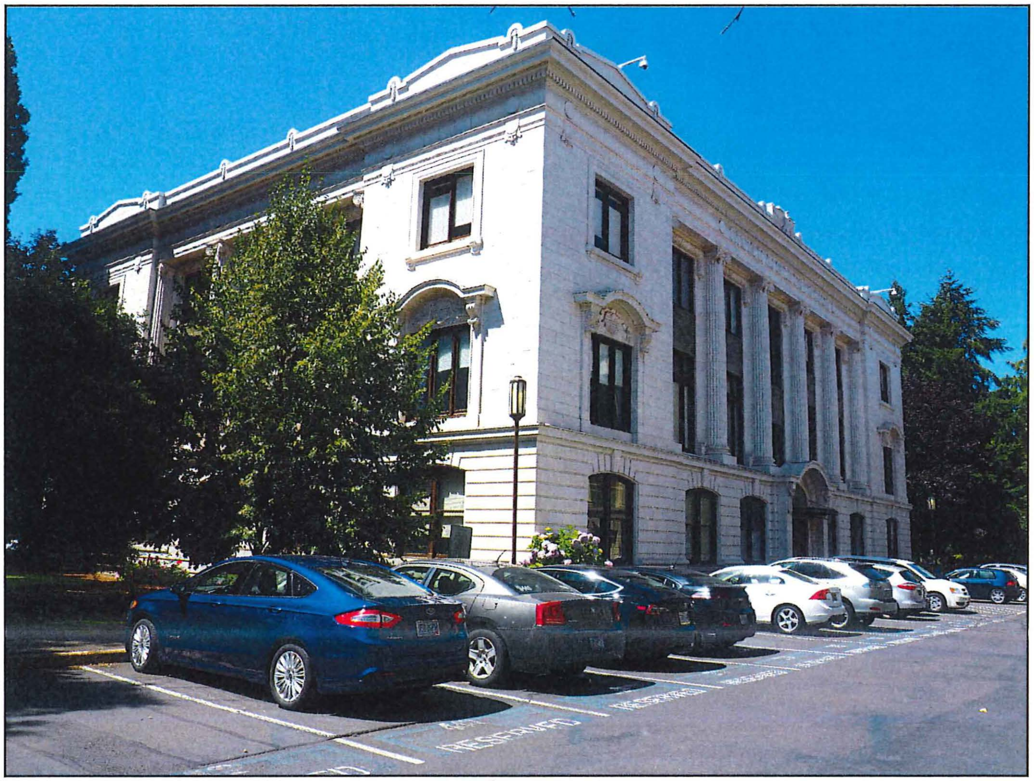


Photo 2 of 14: Northeast corner from 12th Street Northeast, camera facing southwest.

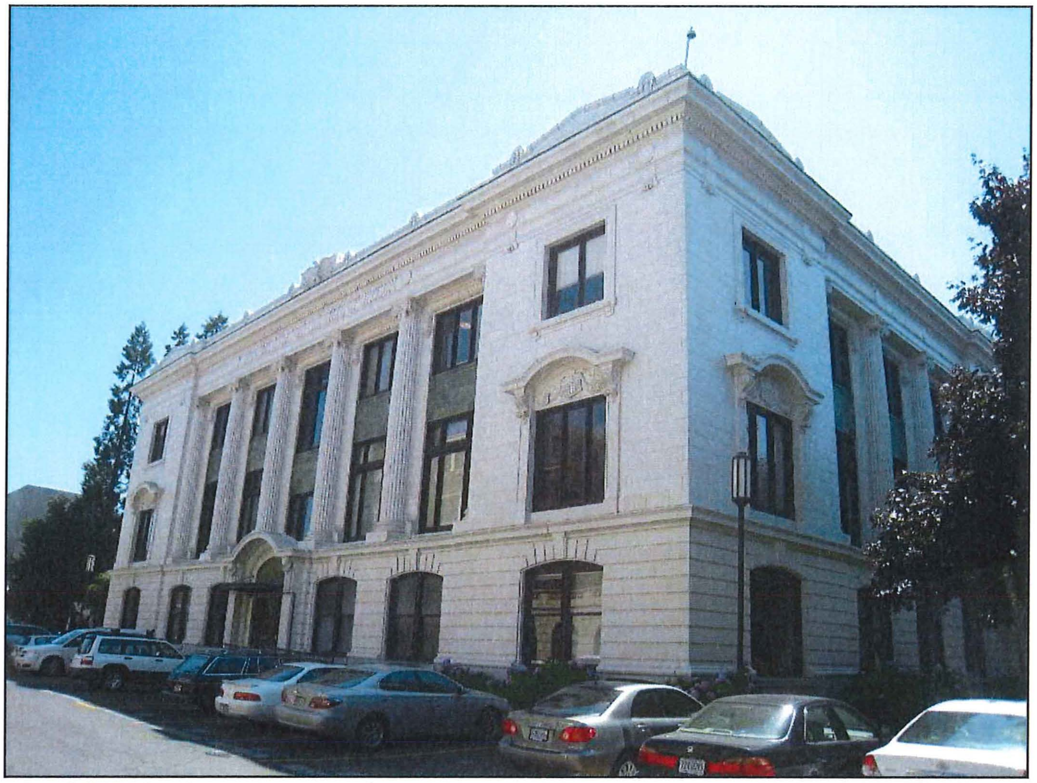


Photo 3 of 14: Northwest corner from Waverly Street Northeast, camera facing southeast.

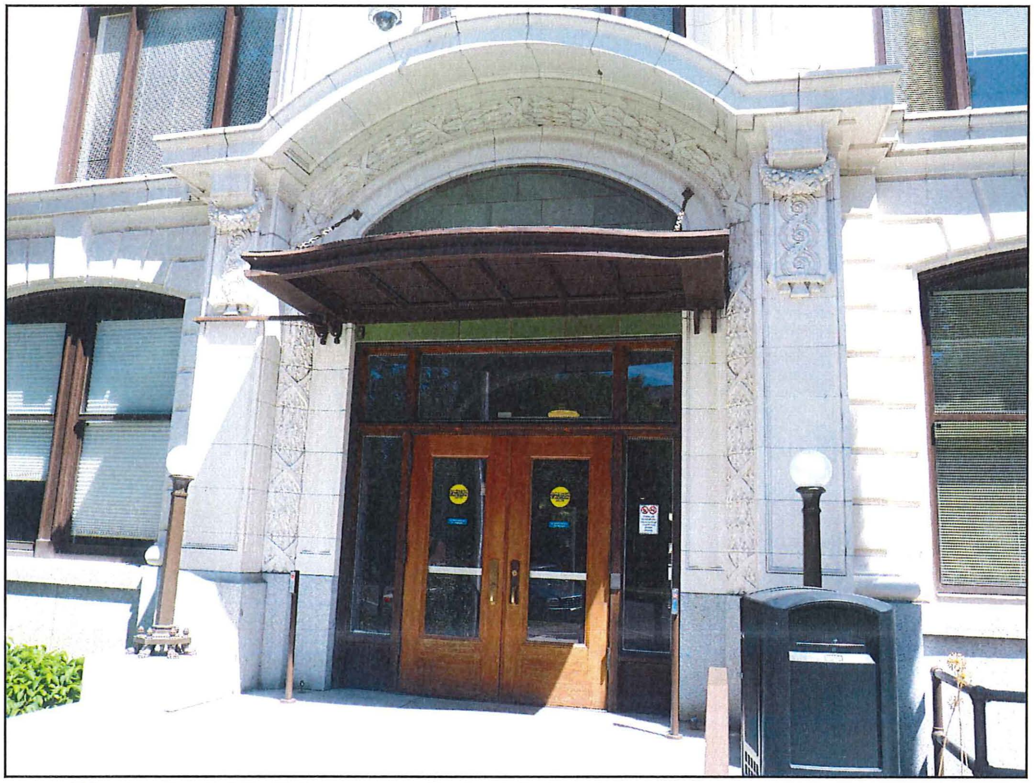


Photo 4 of 14: Primary south (public) entrance, camera facing north.

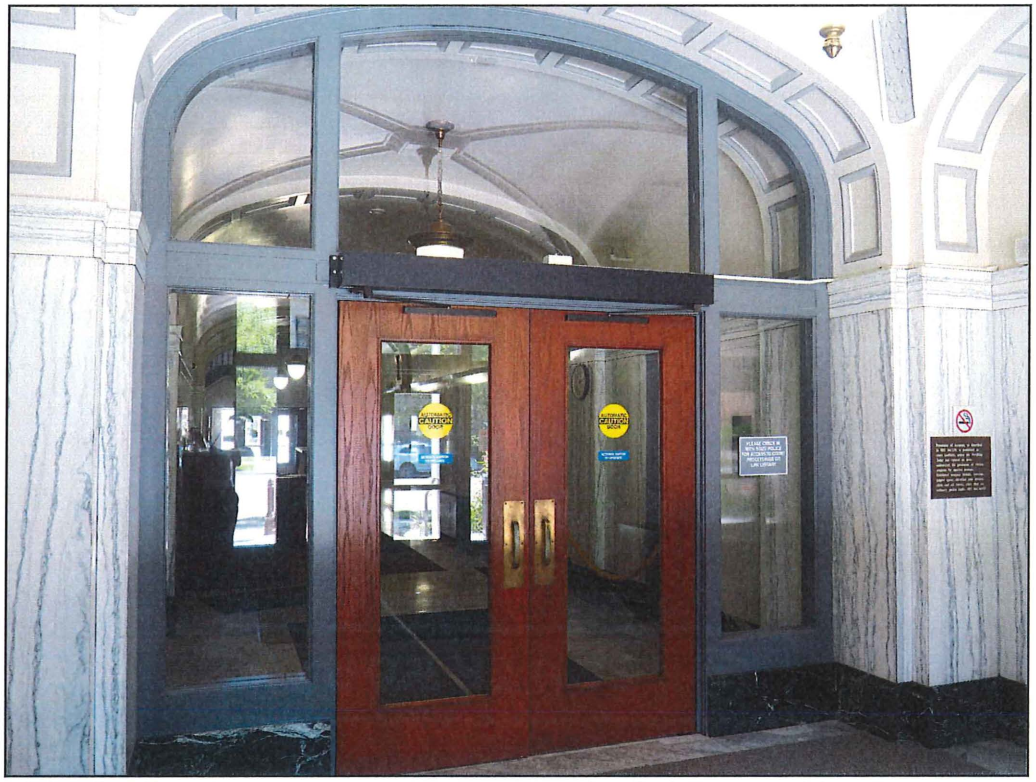


Photo 5 of 14: South entrance vestibule leading into the first floor corridor. Camera facing north.

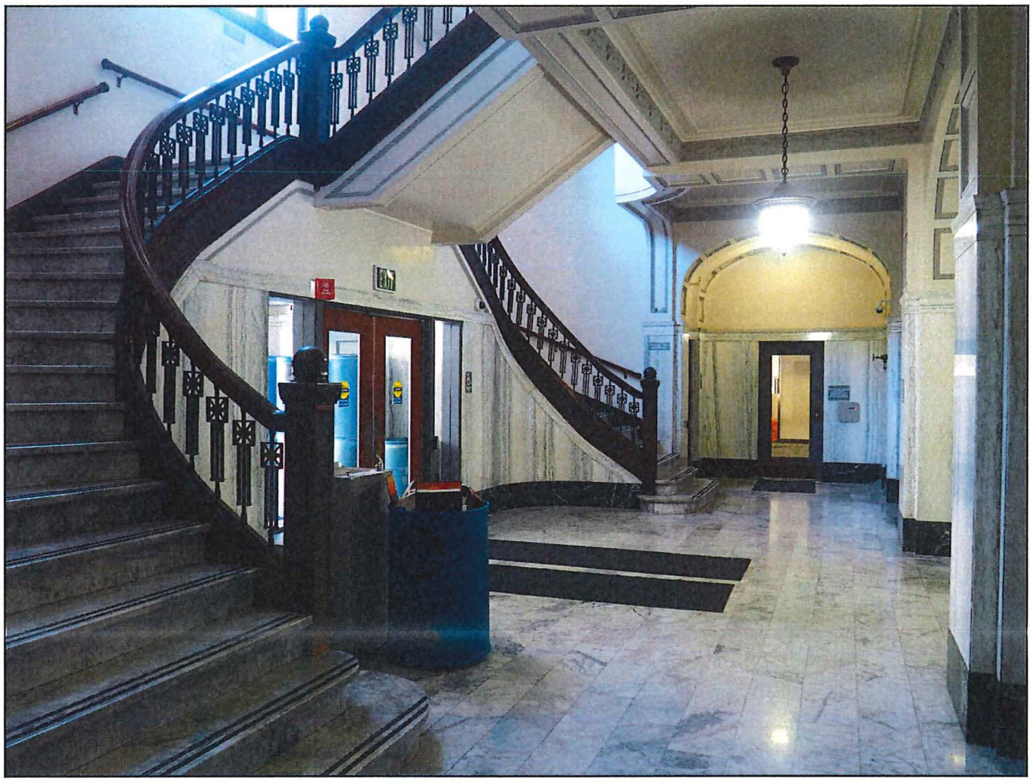


Photo 6 of 14: First floor lobby and grand stair wrapping the north entrance (private) vestibule. Camera facing east.

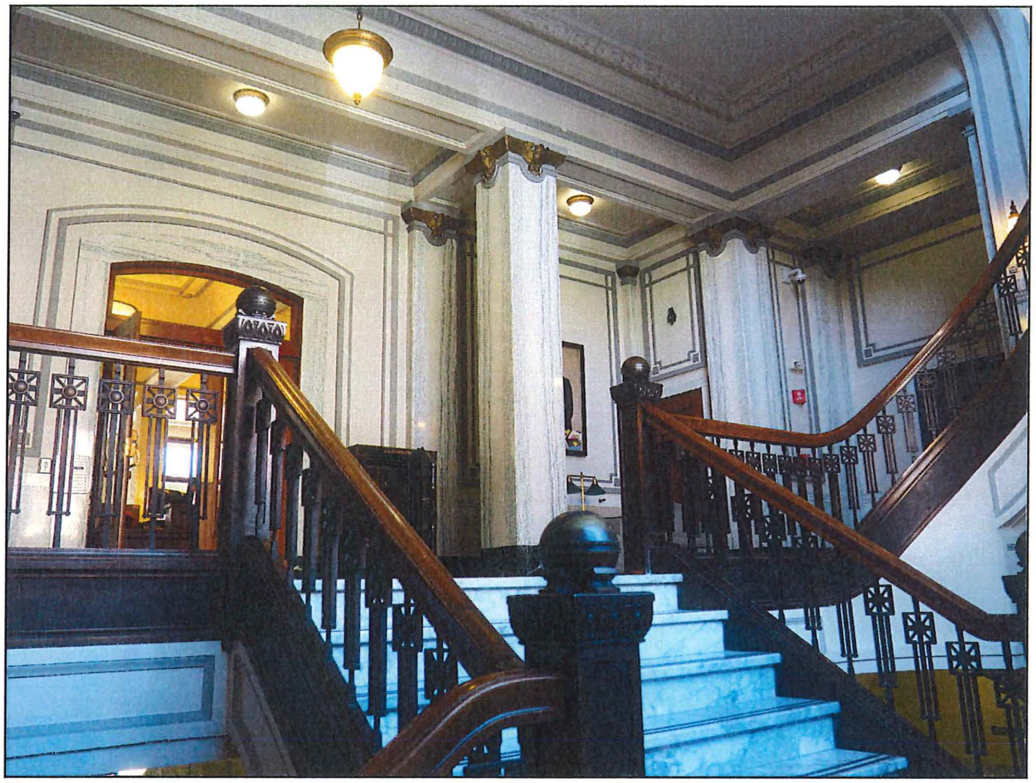


Photo 7 of 14: Second floor lobby looking south from the grand stair. The entrance to the State Law Library is pictured left. Camera facing southwest.

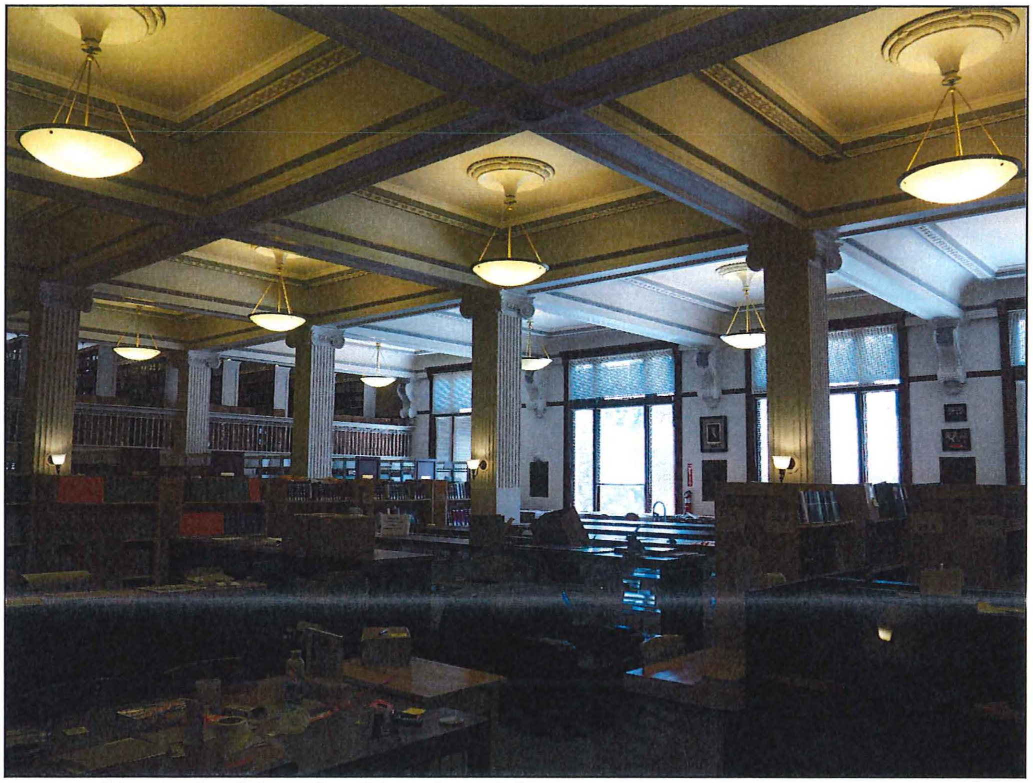


Photo 8 of 14: The State Law Library, camera facing southeast.

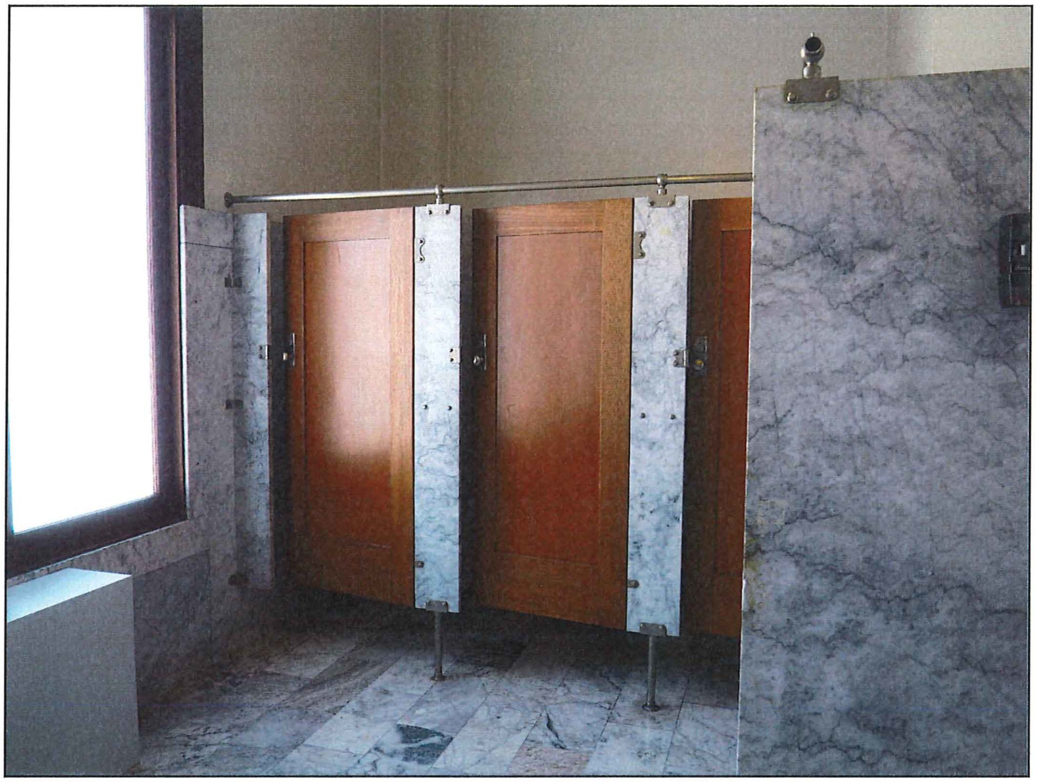


Photo 9 of 14: The third floor men's restroom with marble partitions and mahogany doors, typical of all original restrooms. Camera facing east.

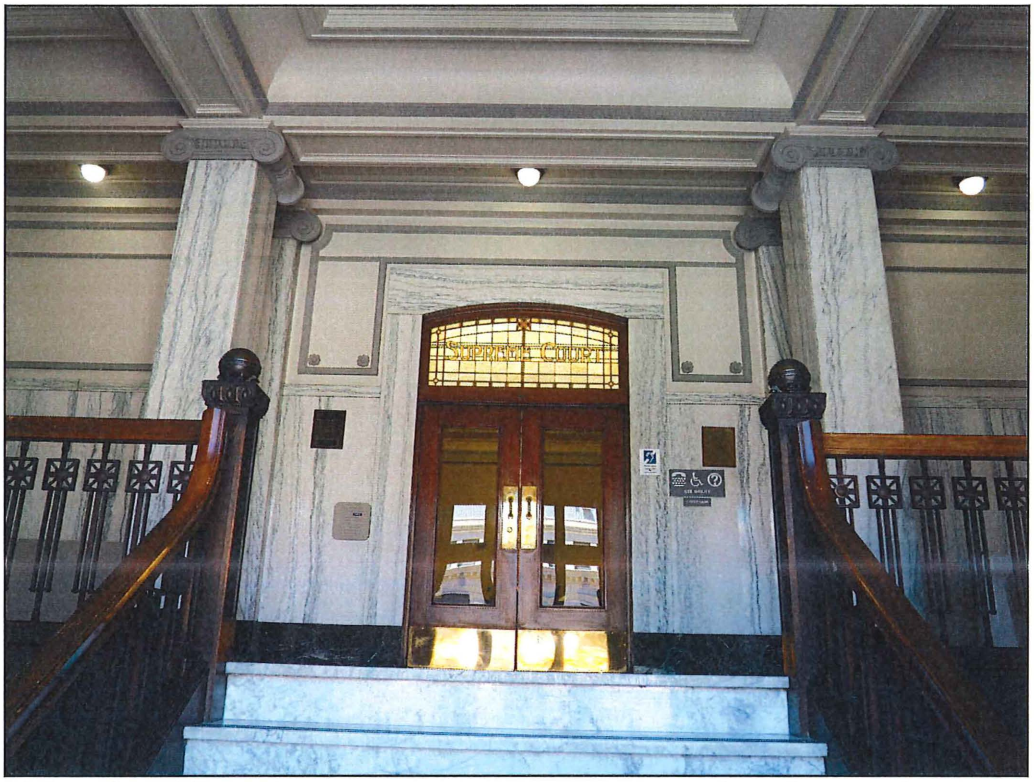


Photo 10 of 14: Looking at the entrance to the third floor courtroom from the grand stair landing. Camera facing south.

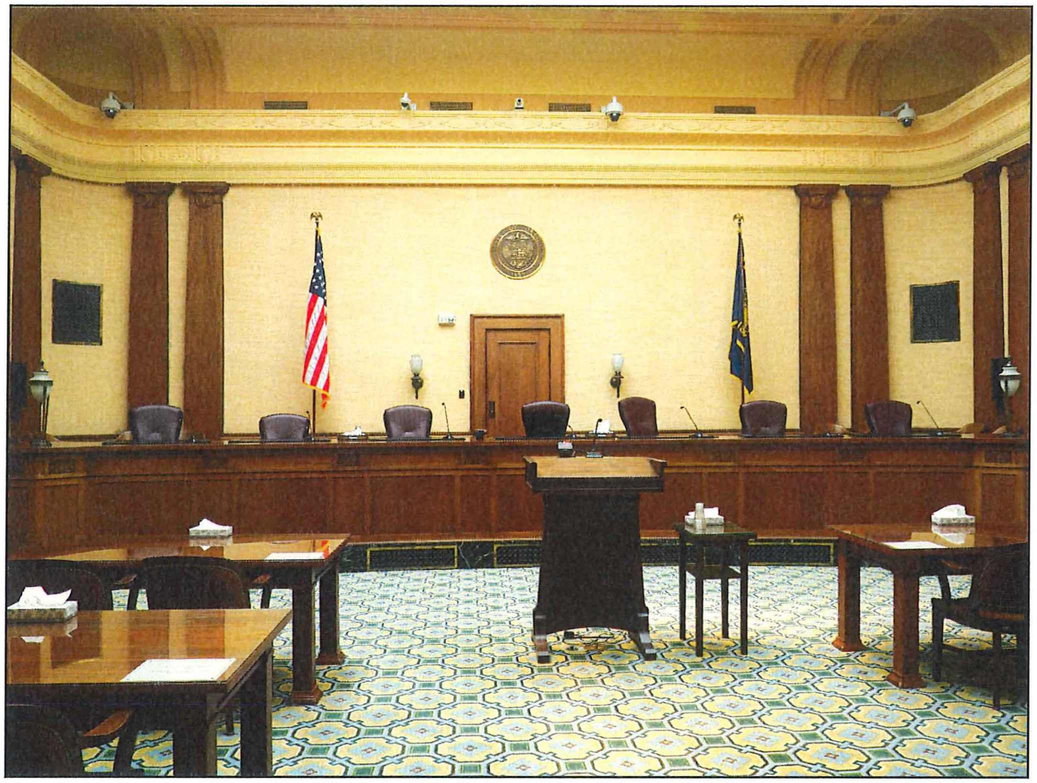


Photo 11 of 14: Inside the third floor courtroom. Camera facing south.

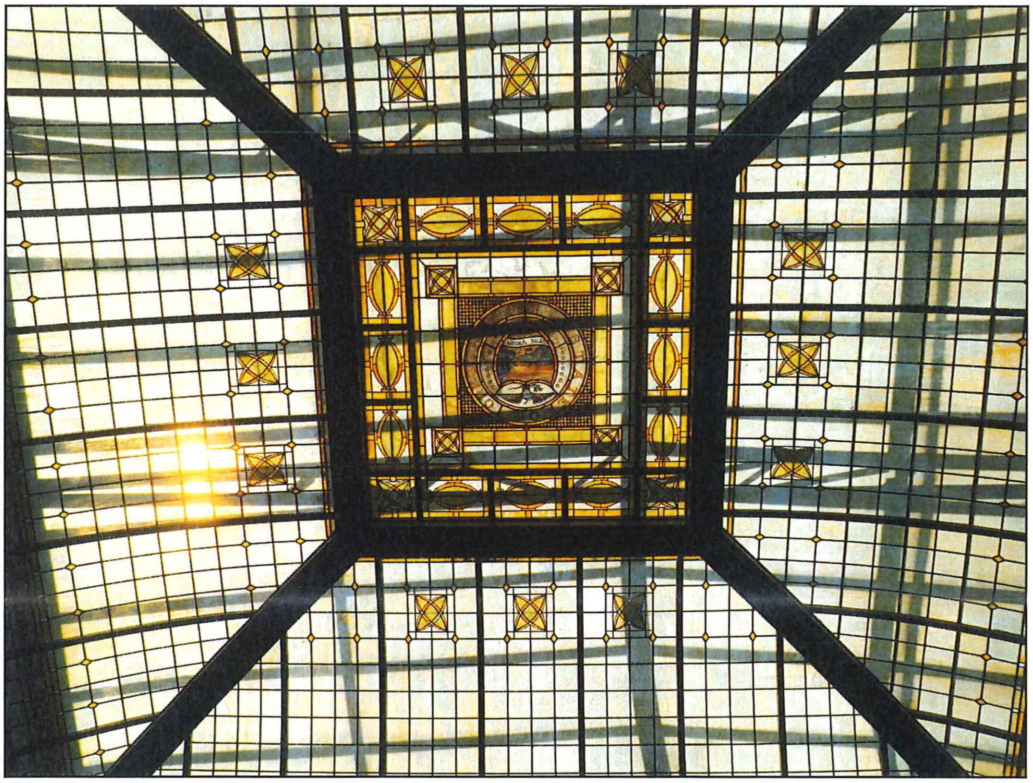


Photo 12 of 14: Povey Brothers skylight in the third floor courtroom. Camera facing upward.

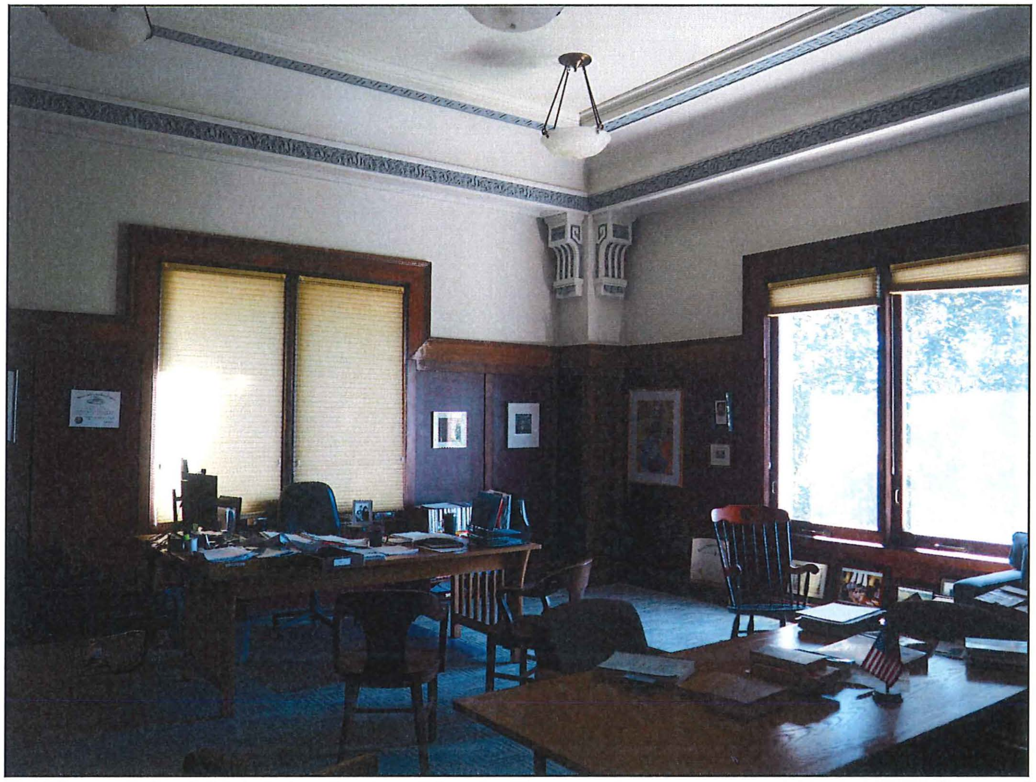


Photo 13 of 14: The original Chief Justice's office in the southeast corner of the third floor. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 14 of 14: View of the skylight superstructure from the attic. Camera facing north.